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We Never Die

BY

EDWARD JAMES

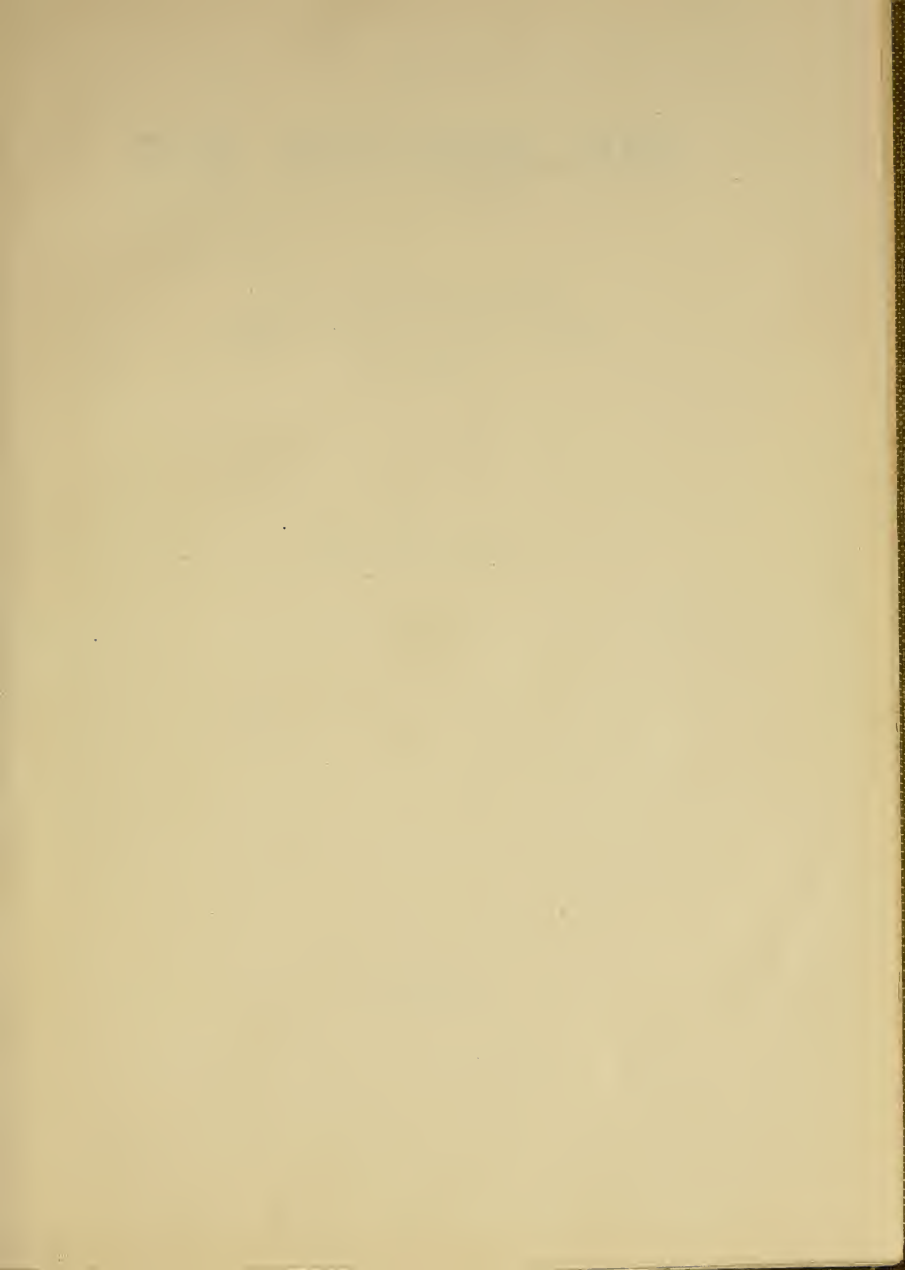


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WE NEVER DIE

AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THE FUTURE LIFE
OF MAN

BY
EDWARD JAMES

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PREFACE

THE views expressed in this book, upon the subject of our future life in the spiritual world, and the relationship our present life bears to that period of time, are submitted as the result of what I believe to be, an impartial investigation of the phenomena here presented.

I do not expect my readers to believe all this description, or rather report, on my part, of the findings of this investigation, for it is a new and intricate subject; dealing with great fundamental principles.

As I have myself, spent over twenty years in a careful study of this subject, I can appreciate how unlikely it is, that anyone can grasp an immediate understanding of it, as here given.

Believing these writings to be practically all true, and feeling the obligation upon my part to publish this book; I respectfully submit it to public investigation.

This work does not raise any question concerning the Scriptures or religious beliefs of any kind, but is simply a report of a personal investigation along the lines of spiritual phenomena.

THE AUTHOR.

WE NEVER DIE

*"All thoughts of ill; all evil deeds,
That have their root in thoughts of ill;
Whatever hinders or impedes
The action of the nobler will;—*

*All these must first be trampled down
Beneath our feet, if we would gain
In the bright fields of fair renown
The right of eminent domain."*

—Longfellow, "The Ladder of St. Augustine."

FOR centuries, in all civilized countries and among all civilized people, the question has been asked: What becomes of us after we die?

This question, has probably engaged the thoughtful human mind, more than any other known to our language.

Is there a continuity of intelligent human life, beyond the grave? To this question, there is a general belief among all existing people in the affirmative, and this accepted principle forms the corner stone; upon which all existing creeds and religious teachings stand.

In many ways, a clear understanding of this theory, is wrapped in mystery; and it is accepted as a belief, founded upon the traditional records which have been left by our ancestors, dating back into the many centuries. Those records, in their many forms and translations from extinct languages, form the basis of the religions, practiced by a very large proportion of the people of today.

Another question, in conformity to that of a future life is: If there is a future state of life, in what form does it exist?

Another question: Is intelligence of the earth life of the individual, retained in a future state?

Another question: Is communication, between the future and present earth life of man possible? Or putting this question in a more concise form; Can man,

after his earth life has terminated, come back to earth conditions, and tell in plain and understandable language, of his experience in the celestial life?

To these questions, and also such others that may suggest, to complete this theme, this work is dedicated.

Owing to the extreme delicate nature of this subject, and the fact that it is a pioneer trail, written entirely from memory, the writer respectfully hopes for a reasonable indulgence for errors which may occur, and trusts, that those who may read this book, will accept this pledge: In every way possible, I will endeavor to tell the truth, as it has appeared to come to me, after those long and painstaking years of honest effort to reach the facts of this subject.

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA

MY first experience in psychic phenomena, was in the year 1885. It took place at my own home in Chicago, where I lived with my parents and three brothers, my sister having married in the spring of that year.

This experience occurred along in the late summer or early fall, and came about in rather a peculiar way.

A cousin, was visiting that evening and stayed over night at our house. After supper, my sister and her husband came in. We spent an enjoyable evening, playing on the piano and singing songs. My cousin and my younger brother, furnished the instrumental music; and my brother-in-law sang several songs, in a very deep, rich bass voice, in which others of us joined.

We played several games of cinch at cards, after which, other games were played and enjoyed by all of us, for as I remember back to that evening, we all had a very enjoyable time. My mother, father and sister, laughed with the rest of us, at the jokes and capers we played, and altogether the evening passed very pleasantly. We sat up till quite late, probably something after midnight.

When our general amusements began to wane, my cousin finally proposed that all we boys would join with him in an experiment of rocking the table. This experiment he had a few evenings before witnessed and joined in, at a party given by some young friends of his.

It was performed in this way: My cousin, brother-in-law, three brothers and myself, seated ourselves around a small sewing table, which my mother used. It was a light ash table, about three feet long and eighteen inches wide, with folding legs in order that the table could be put out of the way when not in use. It was quite new at that time, and stood firmly on the floor. It

did not wobble in its own frame, from any loose joints, and as after developments proved, I am certain that any defects of this nature would have had nothing to do with the results we received; for as it rocked from the position it rested in, while on its four legs on the floor, to that of two legs, and then back to the other two legs, its movement was firm and without wobble or squeak, or defect of any kind.

When we had taken our respective seats around that little table, my cousin explained to us all, the mode of procedure; which was in this form: Our parlor where we were seated, was about twelve by fourteen feet square, with a gas chandelier hanging from the center of the ceiling; our table was placed under this, and all the lights turned off, also the second parlor lights adjoining.

One light where we were sitting was turned very low, leaving the room and all of us as we sat around the table, dimly visible.

We each placed both of our hands on the top of the table, in just a light and natural way, not pressing down on it, but just sitting naturally in that position.

We sat in a passive way, with the thought prevailing among us that we were about to receive a call, through the rocking of the table, from someone in the spiritual world.

We sang a hymn or two, in a low harmonious tone, which was for the purpose of taking our minds off any set thought, and to create a general harmonious and neutral condition.

Manifestations soon became apparent. An electric current, running through our fingers, and felt even up to the arms, was noted by my cousin and myself, and as I remember, some, if not all the other four boys felt a like sensation. This current grew stronger and stronger, after having been seated for five to seven minutes.

The table then showed signs of movement; straining and creaking under our hands. This movement was quite distinct, and lasted about a minute; and then the table tipped right up sideways on two legs, and continued this positive movement, from one side to the

other, until it fell into my cousin's lap, who sat on the opposite side to where I sat, with my brother-in-law. One of my brothers sat beside my cousin, and my other two brothers were seated at each end.

When the table had rested a few seconds in my cousin's and brother's laps, it moved back to its original standing position, and then commenced to rock, from one side to the other, in a strong and positive way, carrying all our hands with it. It did this five or six times, and then rested on its four feet, trembling quite violently.

My cousin then asked the question: "Is there any spirit present who wishes to speak with us?" The table rocked strongly again, to both sides, three or four times, and rested again upon its four legs. My cousin then asked: "Can you express to us, which one you wish to communicate with?" Another strong movement of the table indicated it could.

My cousin then mentioned most, if not all our names sitting, ending with his own. The table remained perfectly still on its four legs, during the calling of our names, until he spoke his own; whereupon, it fairly leaped from the floor and plunged into my cousin's and brother's laps; surged back halfway and plunged again, and did this two or three times, returning to its natural position.

My cousin then asked if the spirit's name could be ascertained by calling over the alphabet, in consecutive order of the letters. The table again so indicated; and he, in naming the alphabet, reached the letter W, in the order, before the table moved, which it then did, very positively, and followed on in that way, spelling the name Will Robins; who answered intelligently, in the same way, several questions controlling the movement of the table, for probably ten minutes or more.

This Will Robins, was a well known, and highly respected young lawyer, who had lived in the same town where my cousin lived, and had passed out of this life, several years prior to that occurrence.

Communicating in that way, was slow and meager, though all words were not spelled out in full; for as we

could grasp the meaning of the word, or even part of the sentence intended to be conveyed, he spoke it to the spirit, who answered yes or no, by the table movement.

Next came the spirit of my brother Harry, to me, in like form as Will Robins had manifested, telling us in that crude, but apparently positive way, that he was not dead; that he was alive and happy, and in the company of many other celestial people. My brother had then been on the spiritual side of life, for nearly twenty years.

We received other short communications in like form, from relatives, whom I do not now remember.

In a general way, all those present, looked upon those manifestations in a light way, and did not consider them seriously; and no doubt, they were all soon forgotten by most of us, in the everyday trend of life.

In my own case it was different; for I always have had a philosophical turn of mind. When the interest began to wane on the part of the other boys, my cousin and I tried the experiment for some little time, with even better success of the table movement, than when the other boys were sitting with us. This aroused my interest, for it seemed to me phenomenal.

I requested to be allowed, to try the experiment myself, which I did, with all the others moved back from the table. Immediately the table rocked strongly under my own two hands, which were placed only very lightly, and without any pressure or movement upon my part.

My hands rested upon the center of the table. I tried to take particular care, not to exert any effort to facilitate movement, and I feel sure I did not. The table trembled and moved, without any question being asked, and then would settle to rest, resuming movement again in a few seconds.

I finally asked this question: Will you try to raise this table, so that it will rest on one leg? The table immediately settled down upon its four legs, and remained so for a few seconds, my hands being spread out flat, palms downward, resting about the center of the table top.

The table began to move under my hands thus placed, but did not raise any of the legs off the carpet. It creaked and rather twisted like, to one end and then the other; it was a very peculiar movement as I now recall it, and created a peculiar feeling of an electric nature in my hands. After moving and twisting in this strained way, for perhaps a minute, or I would think somewhat more, the table came right up on one leg; the nearest leg to my left side, resting on the carpet. All the other three legs, were entirely free from support, the higher legs at the right end, being probably a foot or more clear from the floor. In this angled position, my hands still rested on the middle of the table as it moved in this position, supported only as a magnet would support it by attraction; remaining at its uppermost position several seconds, moving up and down; and then settled gradually back, until it came lightly down again upon its four legs.

It did not fall back, as it would naturally be supposed, but settled gradually, until the legs all reached their own position, and shortly after, the force present seemed to leave.

This closed our experiment. We were all more than pleased, and I may say mystified, at those astounding results; and we discussed at length, our several views, as to the cause of them.

The theory accepted upon the part of all of us was, that it was an actual force; of apparently an electrical or magnetic nature, for we all felt the same electrical influence, passing in a strong current through our fingers and hands, and even in our bodies.

The decided movement of the table in answer to our questions; the spelling of names of our relatives, and that of Mr. Robins, whom we had in no way previously thought of, seemed to conclusively prove, that some real intelligence, was controlling the movement of the table, and finally the raising of the table on one leg, retaining it suspended above the floor at only about one foot, with my own hands only, resting on the center of the top of it, affording no actual support; remaining in that position for perhaps a minute or even more, and moving all the time, in an up and down motion.

This seemed, the most puzzling of all to us, for there was positively no visible support afforded by the contact of my hands placed as they were, and the other boys were sitting entirely removed from the table.

We never got together again in a like way, and never repeated that experiment, but it certainly left a deep impression upon us at the time; and I have thought many times of it since.

This incident recalls another similar one, that happened when I was quite a young boy, about ten years of age.

My sister had attended a party of young people the night before, and among the games played, was one in which a common door key, was placed over a certain verse in the Bible, with the head of the key left projecting out over the end of the book.

A string was wrapped around the book to retain the key in position. Two persons, each placing their index finger under each side of the head of the key, held the book in suspension.

A question was then asked; if any spirit was present, whereupon, or perhaps some little time elapsing, the book would turn around in its suspended position, changing the position of the key, as it was supported by the fingers, causing the book to fall to the floor.

Numbers of questions were asked, and apparently answered, in that way, which made quite a source of amusement for the children. My sister and I tried it, and it seemed to work all right for us. It fell to the floor several times, in answer to questions asked, turning quite positively, upon its support.

These experiences, coupled with subsequent ones which I have had of a much more convincing nature, have proved to me beyond any question of doubt, that there is a living intelligent power; which exerts a control over the minds and actions of living physical men and women; that this benign and angel influence, enters into our daily life, and helps us in every way, here in this life—that it is well for us to know there is such an influence, sent to us from heaven; and with a heavenly grace, to guide and protect our pathway.

As this work progresses, it will treat further and more explicitly of this very beautiful theme, and I will ask my reader to pursue further with me, the investigation of this subject.

MY FIRST MEETING WITH SPIRIT TRUMPET MEDIUMS, WITH SOME VERY WON- DERFUL RESULTS

DURING the spring of 1899, my sister and her husband, were visiting one Sunday at our home. I was then making my home with my parents and two other brothers. My sister and her husband, with their two children, frequently called to spend an evening, or Sunday with us. We also used to have considerable company in our home. My mother and father, both enjoyed the company of young people; and all who came, were made to feel quite welcome. We used to have some enjoyable gatherings, and I now look back, with much pleasure, to those bygone days.

On that particular Sunday, it was during the month of May, we had been enjoying a quiet family gathering, with the prattle of the children, and general run of conversation.

After dinner, my brother-in-law and I, got sitting and talking in a general way together, when finally, he introduced the subject of spiritualism; stating that he and my sister lived as near neighbors, to two mediums.

They had known those two people for a year or more at that time, and were quite well acquainted with them, though they had only recently become acquainted with their work.

He told me, that he and his wife, had attended the seances given by them a few times, and that he himself, was quite favorably impressed with the results obtained. He told me of the nature of the proceedings, in considerable detail, and said that they intended to continue their attendance at those meetings, and asked me to join with them, the following Wednesday evening.

I was not particularly interested, in what he told me, for I had read in the daily papers from time to time, for a number of years, of the deceptive materializing seances

given in Chicago, where I then lived. I had read where the mediums giving those seances, had been raided by the police, while their meetings were in progress; where they were arrested, and proof beyond any question of doubt established; that the whole thing was fraudulent.

This or similar occurrences, had taken place in Chicago, and other cities of the country, and also in Europe many times, and were written up in much detail, exposing the palpable fraud; the finding of robes of disguise, and capturing the supposed spirit forms, while on parade in their seances, only to find, that it was some woman or man in disguise, or probably a number of them.

Such accounts, always excited interest to most readers, and I recollect that I had read many accounts of them. I had not up to that time, found anything stated in the papers or magazines, that offered any evidence, to prove that spiritualism, or anything of a psychic nature was true.

Ghost stories, have ever been quite common, and long tales told of them, which even to this day, have so entered the minds of most people, that when the subject is mentioned of the return to life of the departed of this earth, the whole matter is immediately associated in our minds, and put in the class of ghost stories. Those stories have for centuries, formed the basis of long mythical yarns, which have practically never been considered true.

At that meeting with my brother-in-law, my mind was in this attitude, and I frankly said to him; that there was little doubt that he was deceived.

We talked for probably an hour on this subject, and finally I agreed to accompany my sister and him, in attendance at the seance. This was to please him, for I thought much of him, and not through any desire upon my part, to witness the seance or visit among those people, for I have always from boyhood, despised anything that pertains to duplicity and deception; and always read with much satisfaction, of the detection and exposure of those thieves.

If there is any one thing that is reprehensible, it is the exploitation of a high spiritual conception, for selfish gain.

On the following Wednesday evening as we had appointed, I went over to my sister's home, where I found her and her husband all dressed; and ready to go to the seance. We joked pleasantly about going to visit with the spooks, and laughed quite a little about it.

In a short time all were ready and we were on our way. It was only a short walk of a few blocks, to Flournoy Street and Western Avenue, and the seance was to be held, in a house in Flournoy Street.

In due time we reached the house; an old fashioned three story brick building, with white stone front; with a rather large front bay window, and stone stairs leading up to the second or main floor, with basement floor and rooms, and sleeping rooms on the third floor.

A large stairway with balustrade, led up from the second, to the upper floor, and a rear stairway connected from the hall to the basement, where there was a large front room, used as a dining room, with the kitchen in the rear. The second floor as I remember, contained two large parlors, with high cove ceilings, and large stucco centerpieces.

The walls of those rooms, and also the reception hall, which was quite large, were nicely papered. This had been one of the old fine homes, of former years, but its former owners had died or moved away.

Very nice people, still lived in the neighborhood, as I afterward formed the acquaintance of some of them, through my sister and her husband.

When I entered this place, I mentally observed the surroundings rather critically; and on meeting and being introduced by my sister to Mrs. Brown and her daughter, the two mediums who conducted those seances; I met with a very cordial welcome, and was quite favorably impressed with their general address and appearance.

Mrs. Brown took me by the arm, and introduced me to all those who were present in the hall, for they were just gathering, preparatory to entering the seance circle, which was held in the large rear parlor of the second floor; a room probably fifteen by eighteen feet square.

In the frame of mind I was at that time, I mentally weighed the general character of the guests of those people, as well as that of the mediums themselves.

Mrs. Brown was a lady of about forty-five years, and her daughter about twenty-four. Mrs. Brown appeared to be a motherly good Christian woman. Her daughter was rather short and stout, with full laughing face and eyes, and always appeared to be in good humor. Mr. Brown was away from home at that time, and I did not meet him for probably a year afterward.

As I met the people to whom Mrs. Brown introduced me, I was favorably impressed. There was nothing mysterious looking about them. They were bright, intelligent people, prosperous in appearance, well dressed, and they joked and laughed together as though they had been acquainted for some time.

They were not at all distant toward me, and several of the men passed pleasant, and rather witty remarks, during the short period we were assembled in the hall. The women folks, too, seemed very pleasant and jolly, and more like old acquaintances, than comparative strangers as they were; coming from widely scattered parts of the city. There seemed to be a spirit of fellowship prevail; and this particular quality of temperament, I have observed to obtain in a general way, during my long period of investigating, and meeting people, of only comparatively short acquaintance.

There were present at this meeting, probably fifteen people, all told, though I do not remember exactly.

While the assembly were thus pleasantly engaged in the reception hall, Mrs. Brown finally remarked: Well folks, we may as well come to order, and take our seats for the evening; whereupon those present, repaired to the seance room.

The household furniture of this room was partly removed to an adjoining room, to make necessary space to place camp chairs in a circle form, sufficient to accommodate all present, leaving an open space of floor in the center, of about four feet or so. The trumpet was placed in the center of the open space, inside the circle of chairs, standing large end down on the floor or carpet.

The chairs in the circle, were placed side by side, so when everyone was seated, they sat comfortably without crowding each other, though comparatively close together.

I observed, that the two or three windows of the room, were entirely covered over, excluding all light from that source. There was only one gas light burning in the chandelier, which hung from the ceiling, and as we took our seats which was quite informal, the two mediums sat beside each other, with the people ranged on each side of them to complete the circle.

The lights in the hall had been turned out, leaving only the light in the seance room burning. There seemed to me as I carefully observed, to be no special arrangement of this room, and in every way it seemed quite commonplace.

As we moved into the room, and as we all got seated, Mrs. Brown asked one of the gentlemen present, to turn off the light, which left us in perfect darkness.

When the light had been turned out, the meeting was opened with the Lord's prayer, joined in by all present, but I am not just sure, now, that we always observed this rule. It seems to me we did, but that fact is not absolutely clear in my mind. A hymn or two was sung; usually Nearer My God to Thee, At the Cross, or other familiar religious songs; for those meetings were always conducted in a respectful, and religious way and spirit, as observed at church or Sunday school.

I think it was during the singing of the second song and in the midst of it, that the first spirit voice came. It was the trumpet guide of Mrs. Brown and her daughter; through whose management, those manifestations were conducted, and through his power, coupled with the sympathetic existing relationship between him and those two mediums, the phenomena presented, became possible.

His greeting was: Good evening friends; I am pleased to be able to come here to greet you all; conditions seem to be quite harmonious, and we will all hope to have a successful meeting. He spoke further than this, and answered some questions asked, or some remark made by those present. He remained speaking

through the trumpet all the time in a rather formal way, for probably two or three minutes, and finally said, well, I do not want to take up the forces present, and will now make room for the other friends to come, and laid the trumpet down as it had been placed on the floor large end down.

As this guide addressed us, his voice was perfectly clear and in pure English. His manner of speaking was that of a cultured mind. The tone of his voice, full and masculine; the manner of his speech, direct and unhesitating; and in every way would compare with that of any able man.

This was quite a surprise to me, though I did not consider it very seriously then.

Before proceeding further, I will describe the trumpet, as I omitted to do so in its proper place.

It was made of the lightest grade of tin, and was an open horn, about twenty-eight to thirty inches long, and about three and one-fourth inches in diameter at the large end, and about one-half inch at the mouth end. This was afterward changed to aluminum, and again to wood fiber. The latter proved to be the best, for it was the clearest.

This trumpet when first used, went through a form of magnetizing treatment, by the spirit forces, which was done as it rested, standing large end down, in the middle of the circle. It was also taken up and carried around the circle above the heads of those sitting, and often tapped up against the ceiling sideways, immediately over our heads as we sat, proving that manipulation by the medium was quite unlikely, if not impossible.

After the circle guide had left us, placing the trumpet on the carpet in the circle, it was picked up shortly by a spirit child. I was sitting beside my sister and her husband, opposite the mediums. We could hear the trumpet being raised, it floated around inside the circle right in front of our faces, as we sat there; little chuckling noises, as though the spirit was sending kisses through the trumpet, sounded very audibly, as it circled in that way. The spirit then in a clear and childish voice, marked with distinct pronunciation of all her words, sang us a little spirit song. It was, she said, a song

from spirit life, and not a composition from any earth book. It consisted of a couple verses about six or eight lines each.

When the spirit had finished her little song, she told us that it was one of the songs the children sang in her home. Some questions were asked the spirit, by a gentleman sitting in the circle, to which she answered promptly and in a clear, intelligent way, which I cannot repeat from memory. She proved to be a guide to the man who spoke to her.

This spirit had used the trumpet fully two minutes, I would estimate, or even more. The clearness of her voice, which was that of any living child, and the intelligence of the communication given, seemed very strange to me, and I wondered; if some individual interested with those mediums, was not doing all that we had heard.

As the trumpet had been returned to the floor in the circle, in its usual position, a period of silence for a short time ensued; broken by some member saying: It is very quiet, isn't it; several remarks of like kind were made, during a period lasting perhaps a couple minutes.

Suddenly we heard the trumpet being removed from its place, as though it had been seized by a strong hand; it was carried over our heads and up near the ceiling. A loud, hissing sound like someone blowing through it, while it swung rapidly over our heads, came forth; then a long and loud whoop and scream, quite prolonged; and repeated several times, followed by spoken words in Indian broken English language—me heap Injun! Me heap Injun! Me come to give strength! Me come to give strength!!

The trumpet was then swung with great force over our heads, and the hissing and blowing sound resumed with much greater force, which continued for over one-half minute.

This force cannot possibly be conceived, or even believed, without having actually witnessed it. A written description, can in no way convey an understanding of it.

This spirit proved to be an Indian guide, who was attached to one of the gentlemen of our group in the circle. He spoke in a general way, on Indian spiritual

life, in the same very loud, but intelligent strain of voice, for a minute and perhaps even more. We were sitting in the dark, and could not judge exactly of time. All the way through this work, I wish my readers to understand this particular thing: Where time is stated of things occurring in the circle, it is only approximate; for the reason above stated.

I wish also to state here, that I do not feel at liberty to give personal names of the various people, or spirit people, whom I met as attendants at those circle meetings; for the reason that I have not the consent of any of them to do so.

The mediums concerned, were public people, who were conducting those circles for public inspection. Their chief trumpet guide, was also a public servant, in his spiritual capacity. He often impressed this fact upon his hearers, as I heard him many times do; stating that his work, was for the instruction of everyone who came to hear him.

The period of time that has elapsed since I attended at those seance meetings, beginning in the spring of 1899, and ending in the spring of 1906, I think it was, when Mrs. Brown and her family left Chicago and moved to California, which is now, thirteen years at this writing, since I last attended at Mrs. Brown's meetings, and twenty years, since I first began my investigation of them.

In this long interval of time, I have met but few in recent years, of those acquaintances formed at that time; and know now, of only a few whom I could locate, or know just where they live. I have not even seen, either of the mediums, since they moved to the west, but I did hear from them, for some years afterward, through letters written by them to people whom I knew.

I have learned that they were very happily situated in their new home, and intended to make their permanent residence there. I learned also, that they were conducting their spiritual meetings there, with much success.

I will now resume the description of the seance: Following the loud speaking Indian guide, in a period of about a minute after he had replaced the trumpet on the floor, and without hearing it being removed from the

floor, a low, almost inaudible voice was heard to my right; it was the name mother. It was not answered by anyone, but a lady sitting two or three chairs from me said: I wonder if that spirit can be for me. The answer came through the trumpet, saying no.

A short period of silence ensued, when Miss Brown said, I think she is for that lady next to you, at your right. That lady then said: Is this you, mother? The answer came back in a very weak voice, saying yes; whereupon the lady seemed surprised, for it was the first time, the spirit of her mother had come to her. She spoke to the spirit, saying she was so glad her mother was able to come to her; and asked if she was happy in spirit life. The spirit said she was, and wanted to be remembered to the children. She seemed so weak, or unable to use the trumpet, that it took her quite a long time, to give this short message.

Other messages were received by the different people sitting in the circle, from their parents, brothers, sisters and friends. Some of those communicated through the trumpet, in a very clear and easy way, as though they were quite able to use it, and others, not so much so, but we could understand nearly everything the different spirit people said. Their conversations were mostly quite short in duration, but intelligent.

Several Indian guides came during the sitting, and all of them in the same loud voice, and peculiar characteristic, of the Indian custom.

After being seated for about an hour, the circle was finally closed by the trumpet guide, who spoke through the trumpet saying: The forces are becoming weak, so we will now close, I wish to bid you all good night.

I wish to state here, that when the trumpet guide came to open the circle, he greeted each one of the people who were sitting in the circle by speaking their surname; as the case might be thus; Mr. Henry, Mrs. Henry, or Miss Henry.

After so addressing all the people who were there that evening, Mrs. Brown spoke to the trumpet guide and said: We have a gentleman present with us, whom I wish to introduce to you, and then gave my name. He

replied, I am pleased to meet you Mr. James, and welcome you to our meeting.

He made a usual practice of this form, of speaking in person, to each member of those sitting, all during the time I attended at those meetings, mentioning one name after another, until he had spoken to everyone present.

He seemed never to forget a name, after having once received it, no matter how long after he had last met anyone of those, whom his medium had introduced to him; he seemed to speak the name without hesitancy, at any future time.

When it is considered, that he had dealing with so many different people, having in many cases very uncommon names, it really seemed marvelous that he recalled all of them instantly and correctly, no matter how long any person may have been absent; which in some cases, was from one month, to one, two or three years.

I do not recall a single instance of this kind, where he failed to speak an absentee's name upon return, and invariably addressed them the first one, and in a very friendly way, without any marked effort of form; often stating the period of time which had elapsed since their last meeting.

It was this marked informality, and direct easy ability of character, as I learned gradually afterward to understand him; his brotherly interest in everybody, without showing particular favor; unless everyone was shown particular attention, and marked favor; which I think to be the proper way to state the character and personality of this great guide. It was these sterling qualities, that endeared him to all who knew him.

When the seance was adjourned by the trumpet guide, Mrs. Brown asked one of the gentlemen present, to light the gas. Everything seemed as natural and in order, as it was when we first took our seats. All present were orderly, and quite pleasant in appearance.

General conversation resumed immediately. Miss Brown came over to where my sister, her husband and I were standing, and spoke very pleasantly to us. She asked me if I got frightened by the Indians, and laughed good naturedly about it. There was quite a pleasant

after meeting together of all present, which gave the proceedings rather a social tone; for they laughed and joked about the things that were said, during the circle meeting.

While the people were thus engaged, each person moved up in turn, and paid to Mrs. Brown the twenty-five cent charge, for the evening attendance. This rate was afterward raised to fifty cents, as twenty-five cents was found to be insufficient to pay expenses. The people gradually got their hats and coats on, and began to pass out at the front door.

When I came to get my wraps, I found my overcoat, but my hat was missing. I had worn a hat that was almost new, and in its place was left an old rather worn hat. I put it on and it fitted me, but I noticed that it was not mine, and remarked the fact. There was not much said about it, and I thought I would not create any disturbance, so put the old hat on and went out.

I did not tell the mediums about it, nor did I ever mention it at a future meeting there, and never heard further concerning it. I concluded it was taken by mistake, and thought the one who took it might make his mistake known, and thereby return my hat; but for some unknown reason to me, I never got it back.

After leaving this meeting and on our way to my sister's home, she and her husband and I, naturally talked of our experience at the meeting. I do not mean the loss of the hat, for we all assumed, that was a mere incident by mistake, and in no way due to theft, and dropped the matter with that view; but the other matters that took place, were talked about at considerable length.

My brother-in-law said he had been attending those meetings for some months, twice every week, and said that he had gradually grown from a skeptical view of the subject, to be quite convinced that it would be impossible, for any one or more people to so train themselves, to be able to impersonate the different characters shown; the different trend and inflection of the voices heard, or the personality, of the supposed spiritual people.

We talked in a general way along these lines, and upon leaving them for the evening to return to my home,

I made an appointment with them, to attend the meeting on the following Sunday evening at eight o'clock.

On the following Sunday evening as previously appointed, I met with my sister and her husband; and in due time, we found ourselves at the home of the mediums.

My sister and her husband were very well acquainted with them, having been as I have said before, neighbors for some considerable time. They were on a very friendly basis; so when we were ushered in at the front door, we all met with a hearty welcome, myself with the rest; being their brother.

Those people spoke to me quite freely, upon this second visit, as we all stood together in the reception hall. We were asked to take seats in the front parlor, to await the time for convening the circle.

There were some of the people present whom I had previously met, and before we entered the seance room, Miss Brown introduced all who had not met before. No doubt sometimes, this was not done, for those not acquainted with each other, could not always be remembered by the mediums. Their reason for so introducing people was; that there would be a better spirit of harmony prevail, where everyone was at least introduced; and I may at this place, lay particular stress upon the necessity for harmony, and harmonious conditions, at a spirit trumpet meeting.

Without the general conditions are harmonious, it is difficult, or even impossible, upon the part of a medium or mediums, to get spirit manifestation.

It is for this reason, that so little of the possibility, of spirit communication with the mortal world is known. No matter how good or capable a medium may be, without there be a condition of general harmony present, the spirit forces cannot be collected, or the result of them given, or manifested in such a way, that it conveys an understanding of what they do.

Unless we are attentive to them, and respectful of them; giving to them of our thoughts, a helpful way, they cannot come to us, or communicate with us. As they have told us, "A thought is a deed, and our mind is a force;" which if opposed to them, act like a complete

barrier, to their intercourse with us. They must have our belief and assistance, or they can do nothing.

The same people did not always attend those meetings, for it would not have been possible for them to do so.

At that time, there were probably fifty people who used to go there. They could accommodate not more than fifteen or eighteen at a sitting. The trumpet guide, always objected to having more than fifteen to eighteen, saying; they did not have the force for more; nor the time to give each one the opportunity of communicating with their spirit people. The average number of spirit people who came to visit with their people at the circle, was from one to three of an evening to each person. Sometimes only one would come, and sometimes none at all.

When the attendance was larger than twelve to fourteen, some sitting, usually received fewer communications than the others, and this would cause some disappointment. On the general average, the number would be about twelve people, which would make a good harmonious circle.

It was only on Sunday evenings, a great crowd would attend, and I afterward made it a point, not to attend at that time; in the first place, to give others the opportunity to attend, and secondly, because the midweek meeting was the more satisfactory.

Those people never advertised for business, and received all of their patronage through their clients bringing their friends. In this way, as it was in my own case I presume, those who were brought in as new people, had received a general outline of the work before going, which made them much more acceptable and helpful to the mediums, than total strangers could possibly be; who would be naturally skeptical, and hard to convince. This fact alone, would act as a detriment, to good results in the circle.

And now to resume, only a brief description of my second attendance. In general form of procedure, it was much the same as the first one I attended, in the way of the introductory prayer, and the one, two or three

hymns that were sung, to bring about harmonious conditions.

There were about twelve to fifteen present, which was about the desired number. As I recall it now, it is only in a general way, and not in detail, as the first meeting has impressed me; having attended so many as I did during those seven years, it is difficult now to recall exact details, besides, it would make this work monotonous, and would not serve the purpose intended. There is so much to write about in only brief outline, that repetition is unnecessary.

With regard to the communications, there was practically no repetition of one meeting with another. At this point I wish to state: When the mortal enters spirit life, he or she, do not lose consciousness, of the time or the experience of earth life. All of that is retained; much more than it would be possible for us while here in this life, to know or believe.

We were told this by the spirit guides. In consequence of this fact, those spirit people did not use any set form, but spoke in quite a general way. The first communications from those spirit people, who had not experience in using the trumpet, were quite short, and not very clear; for it seemed they had to learn how to use the trumpet, in much the same way one would learn to use a musical instrument, and it required time for them to acquire proficiency in the use of it. It was an artificial process to them. This fact was always quite noticeable, for they improved in the use of the trumpet in proportion to the number of times they used it.

The spirit relatives of the various people usually spoke of their family matters. This occurred where their interviews were not often, and where questions were asked in a leading way, into that trend of thought to answer.

Accordingly, much of the conversations carried on, were of little interest to those not concerned. Each one sitting in the circle, waited patiently for the coming of his, or her own people; the other people present, listened in respectful silence. Some of those conversations were quite interesting, while others were really not so. We

all realized the difficulty of those people coming to us, and tried to help them with our thoughts, all we could.

It was the guides, who really made the meetings interesting and instructive; for they came in their full strength and power. They spoke longer, and clearer than the other people. They are people in advanced spirit life. In many cases, of very long experience. Some of them, judging by the names they gave, had flourished here on earth, long before the Christian era.

There were great ancient Persian and Egyptian guides, men and women; also a Chinese guide. They at times, spoke only in extracts of their own language; those of course, we could not understand.

They spoke in beautiful language, using many words of quaint pronunciation. The ideas expressed by them, and the words used for the expression, seemed different from any we hear at this period.

There were also those guides of more modern times, who gave their names. They were not people of prominence in our histories, and no one of our group, recognized them as historical characters; but they were educated men and women.

They always spoke on subjects pertaining to spiritual life. They did not seem to be interested themselves in our life here on earth, for they evidently left earth subjects to our own investigation and pursuit.

They would take some subject pertaining to celestial life, and treat upon it. Many and many, beautiful lectures of this description have I heard. It is impossible for me to give even an outline of them, and I will not attempt to.

At private sittings, I have been so overcome with emotions of joy, during the progress of those lectures, that I could not restrain my feelings, and burst right out crying. I record this, because it is a truth, and as such, it should be recorded, in writing like this.

I now feel quite conscious, that readers who will come to these lines will think strangely of me, for they cannot form in their own mind, the reason that would cause such emotion, and will be inclined to attribute it to weakness upon my part. I have no defense to offer

in this way, but feel compelled to make this record, and depend upon time, probably beyond my earth life, to prove this statement.

I will ask the pardon, upon the part of my reader, for this apparent disconnected order of my writing, in not carrying the theme in regular order, as it were, of this second attendance at the seance.

It seems to me, that is of little consequence, for the purpose in mind, which is uppermost; is that of explaining in as full a way as possible, the causes and effects, as I have been impressed, in the pursuit and investigation of this subject.

I have not in mind, the writing of a smooth running story, like a work of fiction. It is the crowding upon my mind, of what I believe to be facts; pertaining to a comparatively unknown subject, and the explanation of them to the fullest of my power, that I will endeavor to give.

I appreciate, far beyond what any reader of these lines may credit, the vastness of this subject, and the inability of anyone while in this mortal life to compass, more than a very slight understanding of the future life, in the celestial spheres.

If conditions exist, whereby it is possible for the living intelligences of men and women who have lived upon this earth, and have acquired all the knowledge pertaining to a life, say, of eighty or more years here; and are now, able to come back from a spiritual existence of centuries, with a retention in their minds of this total life—if they are able to come and tell us of all of this, as I fully believe they can; it will surely be worth while upon our part, to get this knowledge.

MY THIRD VISIT TO THE CIRCLE

IT was not until my third visit to those circle meetings, that any spirit intelligence, came to me or spoke to me, except the trumpet guide. I was introduced to him at the first meeting and he greeted me by speaking my name, as was his general habit, of recognizing all present, at the opening of a seance.

It was about the middle of this meeting, that my Indian guide came to me. His coming was very peculiar, but characteristic of the Indian way. At this period of the circle, there had been a time of short silence, following the speaking of another spirit through the trumpet.

A low, deep roaring sound, came through the trumpet as it remained upon the floor. It was just a roaring sound with increasing volume, until it reached a very high pitch of sound, almost like that of a lion; and finally it became almost as loud as the roar of a lion.

It caused quite a sensation while it lasted. Finally, the trumpet was carried violently to the ceiling, or near it, for we could plainly hear it passing upward. A great hissing and roaring sound came through it, as it violently swung over our heads. This lasted for quite a time, perhaps one-half minute or more, and then the trumpet came right in front of me from the middle of the circle, and in front of my face, as I sat in the chair. In the same loud roaring pitch of tone, this guide gave his name to me, two or three times, and said: I come to this Chief James. I will not give his name, as I deem it will answer the purpose of this work better, not to give the names of those spirit people, who addressed our meetings.

He said, he came to me to help me, and that he would stay with me all through my life. He spoke to all assembled, in a very intelligent broken Indian way.

At subsequent meetings which took place some months after this, and for a long time afterward, this guide used to shake hands with me. He would come

and seize my right hand as it lay in my lap, as I sat in the chair, hold it out at arm's length, and shake it heartily and strongly, up and down several times.

The touch of his hand was quite natural, and I would say life-like. I suspected for some time it was not genuine, but I never told anyone of this suspicion, for I had arrived at the decision; that the only safe and sure way, to follow and investigate the phenomena presented, was to take time, and use the best judgment I possessed.

And here I wish to state, that I have at no time, been a member of, or connected with any organized spiritual cult or religious body; and in no way have I ever considered myself a spiritualist, in the general accepted meaning of the term. My mind has since boyhood, run in philosophical and scientific channels, seeking the causes and truths of things, and in this way and desire, to reach an understanding of matters. I have kept away from any association, that might cause restraint of independent action of mind, and have endeavored to get at facts, as best I could.

I feel, and did feel at all times, during my connection with those spiritual circle meetings, that it was the truth only, that was worth my while to seek. Any imposition on the part of those mediums, or anyone associated with them, would have been made, publicly known by me, if I found it out.

Now, after twenty years of continued investigation, along these same lines of spirit phenomena, I am more fully convinced than ever, that we never really die.

In the course of time, as I continued my attendance at those meetings, my own spiritual family came to visit me. My wife had died in May, 1897, in giving birth to our daughter, who passed out of this life with her mother. It happened on the first day of May of that year.

My wife was the first who came to me, after my guide, but I do not think it happened upon the same evening, but very shortly afterward; I think the following meeting night. When her voice came through the trumpet, it was very weak, and she said only a few words that I do not now recall, beyond her own name. She came about every subsequent evening that I was in at-

tendance, until she learned to use the trumpet, which was not a long time, probably three or four evenings.

About as soon as she seemed able to address herself to me, she said: I wish you could see our baby; she is a lovely child. I asked her if she was really living, and she answered: Why, certainly she is! I just wish you could see her.

I do not remember now, how long it was after that time, that this little spirit baby spoke to her papa, but it seems to me now, that it was only a short time.

About two years had elapsed, since she and her mama, had passed to spirit life. However, when she came to me, I was more than surprised; for she spoke quite clearly, in a childish voice, through the trumpet. Her words were well chosen and pronounced, and better than I thought it possible, for a child of her age to do.

A brother came to me, one who had been in spirit life for twenty years or more. He said he had grown to manhood. He spoke very intelligently, but did not tell us much of the spirit life, beyond saying he was very happy, and saw other members of our family quite often.

It was during the comparatively early visits I made to those circles, it could not have been more than a couple months after I had started going there, that my Indian guide took my watch out of my vest pocket, opened the case, which was a hunting case, with quite a strong spring. He told us all the time by it; then closing the case, as we distinctly heard the snap of the spring, as the lid of the case was pressed shut, he placed the watch back in my vest pocket. He did this same thing, many times afterward.

This will no doubt, seem like a physical act, and my reader may be prone to ask the question, or at least think, why I did not try to seize that hand.

I knew, had I done so, it would have broken the conditions, and such a manifestation, would probably, never have been possible again. I took that view of it, trusting to other developments, that would come in a natural way, rather than be forced by me, to determine the truth of this manifestation.

I now feel, that it was the right thing to do, and am of the opinion that it was a spirit being who performed that feat, for like things were done to other people who were there.

I am convinced, that it never could have been done so often, and without accident, to any living person performing in that narrow space inside the circle, and in total darkness.

The both of the mediums, were often speaking to people seated in the circle, during times of such performance, and I have often been sitting right beside them, during a whole performance, knowing beyond any question of doubt in my own mind, that they never moved from their seats. I have sat at one side, and my brother-in-law at the other, of those mediums, numbers of times, without detecting any shadow of fraud.

During my seven years' attendance, I do not recall a single instance of questionable performance there; and it seems to me that if it were so, the hundreds of people whom I have known to have attended, would certainly have detected it.

There was one thing that convinced me beyond any other, of the genuine character of those meetings.

In my own case, there were fully twenty spirit people who came at different times, and spoke to me through the trumpet. Many of them came rather frequently. This like condition prevailed with the other people, who were there. Now every one of those spirit people came in their own individual way, as to tone of voice, manner, and character of expression. Invariably we could identify almost any of those people, after hearing them a few times, just as we do here, among our friends and acquaintances. I came to think this matter over, and reason it out for myself. I concluded that it would be a moral impossibility, for either one of those mediums, to so disguise their voice, as to be able to imitate so many people. The imitation of the various voices alone, would be in my mind, beyond any human effort. When we realize that practically every spirit person would come in its own individuality, of voice and manner, and no two of them were alike.

If there were, say only thirty people, whom we met in common while attending there, and those thirty people had, say only six different spirit people, speak to them through the trumpet; that in the aggregate, would make one hundred eighty different personalities, that would have to be impersonated in voice and manner. In my seven years' attendance, I fully believe, I met over five hundred different people, who were attending like myself. That would make, in like proportion of individuals to impersonate, both in voice and manner, at an average of six apiece, the great number of three thousand different people, for those mediums to imitate.

In this way, I pursued my investigation, without finding a single flaw, that aroused my suspicion, or that ever developed into any proof of fraud.

This all, has been enough to satisfy me, and of the many intelligent people, with whom I came in contact, during that time, who were just as eager to know the truth as I was; expressed their unreserved opinion, that it would be beyond the range of human power, to produce those circles, by any mechanical process.

At one of those meetings, I think I had been going there for about a year; my Indian guide while speaking to me remarked: I have come from my home to speak to you this evening. I asked him where his home was, and he answered: In the planet Jupiter. I said, well, you have come a long way to speak to me; surely you do not intend to return there? He answered, that he intended to return there that evening; whereupon I asked him, after thinking over his answer a few seconds; well, how long will it take you to travel there? He then answered: In less time than it takes me to tell you.

Assuming this answer to me, from my own spirit guide to be true, what a great future must lie before us all, in the way of personal travel. When we consider the distance from the sun to the planet Jupiter, as reckoned by astronomers, to be four hundred eighty-two millions of miles. At this rate of speed, it will be possible for us to travel in our own spiritual capacity, as the electric spark travels today. It may be quite possible,

and probable too; that the whole realm of boundless world space, will be open to our personal exploration.

Other guides told us, and also our own people; that they had their homes in the planets of our solar system, naming some of them, including the asteroids, or small plants, whose orbits lie between the planets of Mars and Jupiter. Mars and Venus, were also named.

During my attendance, my little daughter frequently, came to speak to me, and sometimes shook hands with me, and kissed me on the forehead. It was a little soft hand, and felt like that of a small child; it was also very life-like, as I felt of its contact with my own. She seemed to grow rapidly in intelligence and power and scope of speech; she also sang several beautiful spirit songs, in a clear musical voice, at different periods when she would first come into the circle, before speaking to me. She told us that those songs were taught to her, at her spiritual school. That they had very learned teachers, and she had such nice companions to play with.

She really expressed herself in words, that seemed older than her years. She used beautiful correct English, which was a marked feature, of nearly all the people in celestial life; and this is particularly true of the children, as I noticed, of those who came to speak to their people.

SPIRIT SPHERES

WE were told by the guides, and also our own people, from spirit life, of their homes in the spirit spheres. Many descriptions, were given to us, that could scarcely be believed, if so related in a work like this. I will not attempt to go into detail on this subject, only to say, that in general, their homes must be very beautiful, far surpassing their earth life.

It would be impossible for me to relate accurately, any detailed account, for as I have previously remarked; those trumpet meetings were all held, and conducted in the dark, which we were told by the guides, was a necessary condition for them.

To my knowledge, no written notes were ever made of the proceedings. I never saw anyone write any, and I never did myself, nor have I ever since that time and up to the present time, made any written account of my own experience in this research. It will be thus understood, that this writing is entirely from memory, and contains only a mere outline, and by no means, a detailed account.

I fear that I will be unable to present an adequate account even in outline, but as I proceed in writing the different subjects, they seem to come quite clearly to my mind. The one thing that I must ask of my reader is, that you will pardon the lack of order in the arrangement of this matter.

I feel that if I can present the actual facts, as they were presented to us in those circle meetings, I will accomplish a great deal, and trust that other lack of treatment upon my part, will receive due consideration.

It seems, as the guides told us, that they actually have houses in those spheres, and that they live in them, in family groups, much as we do here. That they converse freely with each other, have schools, libraries, and meeting halls, where lectures and entertainments are held;

and where music, vocal and instrumental, is rendered in great beauty ; participated in, by the great masters of past ages, who have improved vastly, above any of their accomplishments on earth. This same rule holds true, with regard to the general character of the people, for as we reach the spirit life, we come in contact with a higher order of things. It seems like a commencement, as applied in our college course, and is so in reality ; a graduation from this life, to the higher, spiritual life.

The spheres, as understood here, mean places of spirit abode. They are situated, as I understand it, in our own planetary system. I am of the opinion too, from remarks made by the guides, that spirit abode exists outside of our planetary circle, or that which is controlled by our sun. That those people who advance in spirit life, have greater scope of vision and power, and that thereby, they are enabled to proceed to remote regions of celestial life. On this subject, I am unable to proceed further, as we did not get details, of the higher life, that I can recall, only this : That it is greater and more beautiful, abounding in great light and in great knowledge.

In speaking to the guides on this subject, we were told that there are seven general spheres, and that upon our passing into spirit life, we are ushered into whichever of those spheres, our own spiritual condition admits of.

The first of those spheres, is a low order of life, and is known as the dark sphere. The second sphere is a grade above the first sphere, but is a dark sphere also.

Into either of those spheres the lower order of people, who leave this earth pass. The man or woman, whose hands are bathed in crime or blood, or in such acts here, that make them outlaws to society, find their destination here, in either of those spheres, in accordance as their acts may merit.

The life lived in the first sphere, is described by the guides, as something terrible ; for it is the dregs of earth, who live there. As described by the guides, it is quite dark and dismal, and void of comfort. People there are quite unhappy in almost every way ; but somehow, many live there for a long time, or until they receive the con-

sciousness, and finally make the effort, upon their own part, to improve their spiritual condition.

It seems to be like one, who has a long formed habit. He is loath to change it; and prefers to continue in even a miserable existence, as he had for years before, on earth. He refuses the kind offices of an angel guide; for he is free to do so, if he so chooses; until he grasps the light himself—and by his own desire; seeks and obtains, better conditions. This rule follows through our whole life; it is we ourselves, who make it.

When this consciousness takes hold of them, they begin to get better; like one who receives religion, having led a previous sinful life. In the course of time, according to their own work, and effort to improve themselves, they thus succeed in doing so. When he or she, attains a spiritual standing, that will permit them so to do; they advance to the second sphere.

In the second sphere, things are much better. There is more light, more privilege and comfort, and generally better surroundings.

This is a great encouragement, to the unfortunate creature who has spent his time in Hades; as we may properly understand the first sphere.

It seems, that with some people, long periods of time are spent, before they catch a glimpse, or feel an impulse, of a better state of life. Is it not just so here on earth?

When once they succeed in progressing, it is different with them. They take on ambition, and work, and do better. In the second sphere, it is still a low order of life, where certain grades, or classes of unfortunate men and women, find their destination in spirit life.

Those grades have been described to us, but I will not go into that detail, feeling my inability, to do justice to the subject; for I would much rather fall short in these descriptions, than to exceed, or overstate them.

The third sphere, it seems, is the one, the average person, leaving earth enters. We were told, that in this sphere, surroundings and conditions, are much like those of our own earth. In the third sphere, they live quite happily, in their own homes. Altogether, their life here, is well and pleasantly spent.

It is in the fourth sphere, that truly spiritual beauty begins to appear, and great happiness and comforts abound. Lovely trees and flowers, parks and lakes; grand climate and sunshine, and everything beautiful.

I am not sure, but I believe we were told, that animals and birds, and other life of a like nature are found here.

The magnificence of this sphere, is an inspiration, to all who are so fortunate, as to enjoy its comforts. The desire of those who reach thus far, is much quickened, during their residence here; their spiritual life and their spiritual condition, are much improved. They strive to meet, and measure up to the requirements, that nature imposes upon them, and in doing so, they prepare the way, for their further advancement. This general law, seems to hold good throughout, in spirit life.

There are requirements during this course that I am unable to state, though some of them have been told to us. One of these requirements is this: To lose the thought, of doing things for one's self only, and to give a helpful hand and counsel to others, no matter how low down in the scale of life, they may be, for we are all; brothers and sisters, in spiritual life.

We were told, that it is the duty, of those in the higher life and spheres, to descend to the lower spheres, to do missionary work there. That it is by their work and influence, the people in the lower life are instructed, and thereby raised out of their lowly state. This missionary work is continued in all the lower spheres, for the upliftment, of the people there.

Here again, we were told by the guides, that the means of travel, from one sphere to another, is extremely rapid and easy of accomplishment. To them, there is no such thing, as a charge for transportation; by rail or other means. Each one travels, in his, or her own power.

WHAT IS A MEDIUM?

NO doubt, this question will be asked and little understood, by the average person who will read these lines.

As defined by Webster, and as it will apply to this subject, it states: "A person through whom the action of another being is said to be manifested and transmitted."

It is substantially in this way, that I understand the definition to apply to this subject. To put it in my own words, I would say: A spiritual medium is a man or woman, through whom a spiritual person operates.

In order that a spiritual person, may thus operate through a mortal person, to the degree of mediumship, and especially the higher degrees of mediumship, it first becomes necessary, for the spiritual individual, to gain such control of the mortal person, that spirit manifestation, through the mortal person becomes possible.

In order that the mortal person, can become a medium, it is necessary that the mortal possesses the sensitiveness, necessary to spirit control.

Allowing this to be so, and that the mortal person is thus sensitive; it then devolves upon the spiritual person, to develop this sensitiveness, in such a way, that he may use it, to manifest his will and design.

In other words, a medium is a person through whom a spirit control, performs and does things of a spiritual character; that the things thus performed, through that medium, are not of the medium's doing, but are of the spiritual person's doing.

We were told by the guides, that very long periods of time are often necessary, for a spirit person to so gain control of a mortal person, that satisfactory results can be obtained.

Along this line, I may now properly introduce an experience in mediumship, which I, with several other

people went through. During the first year that I attended at the circles, Mrs. Brown introduced the subject, of organizing a developing class. I believe that the trumpet guide was instrumental in this matter, but that is not now clear to me, if I ever knew it.

She spoke of it one evening, after the circle had adjourned; and we stood talking together about it in the hall. The subject raised considerable interest, and was quite freely discussed and commented on. Altogether, it was considered favorably, and several present expressed a willingness to join the class, after Mrs. Brown had given us an outline, as to the meaning of it.

On the following meeting night, this subject came up again, and finally, after a good deal of exchange of opinion concerning it, the nucleus of the class, was organized that evening. It was the purpose, as Mrs. Brown stated, to hold this development meeting once a week, on a night that the circle did not meet, and as I recall it, it seems to me, it was Tuesday or Thursday.

In due time, we assembled for that meeting, for I had joined it. My sister and brother-in-law had also joined. At this meeting, we had quite a respectable showing, seven or eight people, beside the mediums being present. The charge for attendance at those meetings was twenty-five cents for each person.

I am inclined to believe that the trumpet guide arranged this whole matter, for I have often heard him talking through the trumpet to the mediums, both of them answering him, when he arranged such things.

The attendance increased, as the subject became known to all the people who attended at the trumpet meetings, until the class numbered eighteen or twenty I would think, though I will not say exactly. More people than twenty had joined, but the average attendance, would probably be about fifteen.

We assembled in the dining room of the basement, a large room, situated in the front of the building, about eighteen by twenty feet square, with low ceiling. We used the large extension dining table, placing all the leaves in it, stretching it to its full length, with chairs arranged all around it, on both sides and both ends.

The people attending, occupied nearly, if not all the chairs. If any chairs were vacant, not having enough present to occupy them, they were removed from the table, and set back at the end of the room, where they were entirely out of use, no spectators being allowed.

As I now recall those meetings, the trumpet was not used, and I do not believe it was, but it seems to me, that after the adjournment of some of the development meetings, we did go up into the seance room for only a short time, where some manifestations were received, for which there was no charge.

We sat around this large dining table, taking such seats as we chose. If there was not full attendance, we sat at either side, or at one end and both sides, so as to be rather close together. In this way, the forces worked better.

The mediums sat together, about the center of one side. The top of the table was uncovered and of natural oak finish. We sat at the table, just as we would if we were about to dine. Each person was given a small block of blank writing paper or tablet, as it is called, also a small lead pencil, which was sharpened. These were laid in front of us on the table. No other arrangement was made, that I now remember.

When we were all comfortably seated, and everything ready, the light was turned out by some of the men present. The chandelier hung right over the table.

When the light was turned out, we opened the meeting with prayer, we then sang one or more hymns, to bring us all to a neutral, and harmonious condition of mind and thought.

Manifestations soon started. It really seems to me, we did use the trumpet, and had it on the top of the table, and it was used in a limited way, during our sitting. I know it was not used, in the sense that the meeting was a trumpet meeting, but I do think the guides used it in some way, I think it was used in opening the session, when the trumpet guide made a few remarks, and also in closing, and probably in a small way during the sitting; for I do not know, or do I recall how else it could have been.

It is not really an important matter, concerning that class, it is the other manifestations, I wish to bring out.

When the light would be turned out, as I have before said, manifestations soon appeared, during or after the singing. Little lights would soon flash over the table, and float in front of us, or over our heads. Sometimes these would be only dim, small lights, one, two or three in number, varying in size, from a pea, to the size of a dime or quarter. Sometimes only one would appear. Some evenings there would be quite a number of these, and other evenings, we might not have any at all. Some of those lights were quite dim and some were very bright, almost like an electric light, but they did not seem to light up the room.

Some of the writing tabs, that were placed in front of us, would be taken, and messages written on them right in front of us. Several messages of this kind, would be written during the sitting of the evening. We could distinctly hear the writing. It sounded like that of any person, writing on such a tab, with a lead pencil.

The writing was usually done very rapidly, and could be read quite easily, though the lines were not straight. It looked just like hurried writing. In my own case, the tablet rested right in front of me. The mediums sat across the table, some distance from me. I reckoned that it would not have been possible for anyone, to write quite a long and legible message, from the opposite side of the table, on my block where it was. Tablets all around the table were written on in like manner.

Scores of messages, were thus written, to the different people sitting, during several months, that we met in that class, which I think was kept up for over a year while I attended, and I don't know how long after, but the class was discontinued finally; after something more than a year.

During those sittings, quite a little commotion over, and around the table took place, and I remember we used to have quite a little amusement, for it was rather informal.

The principal feature of this meeting, was that of developing the class in mediumship; and any show, or

display of control, on the part of those sitting, was encouraged. After sitting together a few evenings, some became affected. They claimed that they could see spiritual forms in the room, or beside some of the people sitting.

They were encouraged in every way, to give out and tell aloud, as much in detail as possible, of what they saw or heard. Some did this and their statements were afterward verified by those same people, whom they had described; telling them of it through the trumpet. This power to see spiritual things, is called clairvoyance.

On the other hand, some would hear sounds, or words spoken by the spirit people, without the use of the trumpet, and without other people who were sitting right beside them, hearing such sounds. Some of those were spoken messages from some spirit to someone in the circle, given to this sensitive person, to be transmitted to the one the message was intended for. This form of mediumship is called clairaudience, or the power of hearing spiritual voices, and understanding them.

One gentleman, whom I quite vividly recall, and whom I became well acquainted with, used to be controlled rather violently; he would commence by pounding on the table in front of him with both hands, trembling all over his body. This pounding would increase in volume, until his hands would beat a regular tattoo. He would then commence to scream, jump out of his chair, and roll upon the floor. He seemed to be in real agony. Mrs. Brown would rush up and say to the spirit: Come now, I want you to leave this man, taking hold of the prostrate form of our friend. There was sometimes, difficulty in releasing him from this control, and he would remain in that condition, for some minutes.

We were told through the trumpet, that some undeveloped spirit, who did not understand how to get control of him, was the cause of it.

The guides act as a barrier, to prevent such things it seems, and they rarely happened; but in his case, it occurred several times to my knowledge.

In the course of time, probably a month or more, after beginning this practice, I felt a control myself. It

seemed to be a tendency to move my right hand. It would tremble as it lay on the table, during the time we were sitting.

As it was our purpose to sit for development, we were instructed not to resist any sensation, or movement of our bodies or limbs that might seem to come to us; so following this rule, I allowed my hand to move as it would, without restraint; as I thought it might be for writing. It afterward moved considerably, but it never developed into writing by control.

It is only in a brief and general way, I wish to treat on this subject. We really did not accomplish much in this development class, for we did not follow it up long enough. In my opinion, it was difficult to keep the interest up in the class sufficiently to hold it together, so the attendance fell off; until it was finally abandoned altogether, after some time over a year.

I think now, the results we had, considering the few times we assembled, really warranted continuance, but sufficient interest could not be kept up, to hold the class together.

I believe, if a small, harmonious family circle of two, three, four or five persons, would sit at home, in a dim lighted room, of an evening, at regular intervals, of two or three evenings a week; sitting patiently and earnestly, forgetting all worldly cares, for the time being; sitting in a happy, natural and negative frame of mind; they would, in a comparatively short time, have their own mediumship developed enough, to realize some return for it. The sittings should not be so long, as to fatigue those sitting; say from thirty, to forty-five minutes at a time.

HOW A MEDIUM IS MADE

A SPIRITUAL medium, is a person who is sensitive to the influence, and more or less, to the control, of a spiritual being.

As I have told in a very brief way, the course in mediumship developing, practiced at our development circles; it will probably be well to state further, that a long time, is generally required to make a medium, in the higher degrees of development.

This development is accomplished by the spirit who holds the control, who in turn, is probably assisted by other spiritual associates. The work on the part of the spirit in this way, may not be done in any public way. Much of the work may proceed while the medium is entirely unconscious of the spiritual presence. It may take place to a large degree, during sleeping hours, or other times that I am unable to state, with any degree of accuracy.

We were told by the guides, that years, are sometimes consumed in the development of a medium. It is obvious, that under these circumstances, to attempt on my part to describe the process pursued in this development, would be quite inaccurate.

THE BROWN FAMILY MOVE FROM FLOUR- NOY STREET TO WESTERN AVENUE

IT was in the second year after I began attending those circles, that the family moved from their home on Flournoy Street, to an apartment flat, on the second floor of a brick building, on Western Avenue, just south of Van Buren Street.

I do not now recall, any particular incidents that happened there, pertaining to the circle work. The room where the circle was held, was quite small, with rather low ceiling. In a general way, the space was not suited for the work.

After only a short time, the family moved again; to a two story residence in Jackson Place.

In this residence, we had ideal accommodation. A nice reception hall on the first floor, a large parlor, and a fine large dining room; that was used for the circle room. The sleeping rooms were on the second floor. The house was nicely furnished and very homelike.

In this place, we held some very remarkable meetings.

Mr. Brown, joined the circle about this time, having been away from home, during the previous time I had been attending there.

His presence was quite a help to the circle, as he seemed to bring good conditions. He was a very pleasant agreeable man, a good singer, and played the harmonica very well, in accompaniment to our singing in the circle. He also played solos, very well on it too; which seemed to add harmony, and general good results, to the successful conduct of the meetings. I felt always pleased to have him with us; he was so jolly. And by the way, sittings for the trumpet, were by no means, in stiff form. We talked quite freely and informally, while sitting in the dark; between the periods when the trumpet was not in use.

By this method, everybody seemed to keep in natural, and pleasant mind and expression; and this condition, produced harmony; the foundation upon which, spiritual manifestation depended. The guides were always doing and saying things, that tended to keep everyone in good humor, and somehow, we seemed to all, join in that spirit.

Those meetings were seldom or never dull, for something was nearly always occurring, to engage our attention and interest. In almost every meeting, some of the guides would give a lecture, on some spiritual subject. Earth business, as we are interested in it, never seemed to be spoken of by the guides; their object being apparently, to raise the standard of thought above earth life.

I have often wished that I had a copy in words, of some of those lectures; leaving aside, the manner of expression used by those beautiful spirit personages in delivering them.

The most highly refined and educated of our earth people, would poorly measure up to the thoughts expressed, or manner of expressing them. I feel wholly incapable to describe them, as I have my memory only, by which to be guided.

Some of those spirit children, sang songs from spirit life, in most beautiful rhyme. Their voices in singing too, were pure and musical in tone and pitch of voice, and in musical accomplishment; they were of the highest culture. The strength of their voices, was just as great, as any earth child. Some sang in low sweet tone, others in very loud voice, that could be plainly heard out in the street; or would be as loud, as children sing at school.

There were several musical guides, who attended at the circle. Mr. Brown's harmonica, seemed to be a great help, and inspiration to them. I will not mention names; but there were quite a number of those singers, who favored us with their great power of song.

Their voices were like we hear in grand opera, and of the finest kind. Sometimes, two of those great singers would join together; and many a time we have had a whole chorus, of male and female voices together, in the volume, and equal in every respect, to the tone and music of the greatest of grand opera singers. I do believe, I

will not misstate a single word to say, they were superior, to any of our grand opera renditions.

It will be understood too, that only one trumpet could be used. Whether, by their own management, they could all speak through the trumpet together; or that some of them sang independent of the trumpet, we were not fully sure, but we were of the opinion, all but one, sang independent of the trumpet; for we sometimes had independent voice, and as many as four or five speaking at once; but this was not very often, for it caused confusion.

In singing though, it was quite different, for it produced the greatest harmony. It would be simply impossible to convey an adequate understanding of that singing; for I really thought it to be, beyond the power of human beings to do.

There were probably a dozen such great singers, male and female. I said to friends at the time; that there was certainly, not sufficient talent present in our circle, to produce such music.

In almost every sitting that we held in our new quarters, one or more, of those singers would sing for us.

The lectures from the guides, seemed to improve at that time, and we used to look forward, so much to their coming. Every one of those people, were as separate and different in their individual manner, voice and expression, as we are here on earth. We could easily identify them, from hearing them.

The singers sang in different tones of voice, from bass to soprano. In every way, they seemed perfectly natural. The singing was always inside of the circle, and mostly over our heads as we sat there; and sometimes up near the ceiling.

When individual guides came, they would generally hold the trumpet just in front of their medium, if they intended to speak or sing to them alone. If they addressed the entire circle, they invariably spoke above our heads, or made it previously known in some way, that they intended to address the whole assembly.

One lady spirit, sang in a strong contralto voice, another in a very high soprano. Those two people sang many of our familiar hymns; Onward Christian Soldiers,

Rock of Ages, Abide with Me, Nearer My God to Thee, and other beautiful hymns. They never sang comic songs, nor did any of the spiritual people ever engage in commonplace discourse or conversation. They seemed always, to be of a higher and spiritual order of life, though they were always so agreeable and easy of manner; never showing stiffness or reserve, displaying always, the highest intelligence.

One of the gentlemen who sat in our circle, had a splendid bass voice. He used to sing, *Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep*, and other hymns suited to his voice. He also sang a couple of negro comic songs. We asked the trumpet guide, if he objected to the comic songs, and he said; no, if they produced harmony. We seemed to be able to establish a condition of harmony without resorting to a light, frivolous form of music, and as the guides never made use of such things, it was very rarely they were introduced at all; though as I have previously stated, we were by no means, stiff in our attitude as we all sat together and conversed with the spiritual people; for we spoke quite naturally and freely to them.

SEANCES GIVEN AT PRIVATE HOMES

IN the first couple years that I attended, it was the practice of Mrs. Brown and her daughter, to go to the homes of those whom they knew, and hold private seances, on evenings, other than regular meetings were held. I knew some of the people, in whose houses, such meetings were held.

My sister asked me to attend one, to be held at her home. This was before the mediums had moved from Flournoy Street.

In that meeting held at my sister's home, the same form of conducting the circle obtained, as that observed at the public gatherings. We sat in the parlor in just a small circle, using the dining chairs, for they were uniform in size, all windows were covered to exclude light. When we were all seated, the gas light was turned out, and we said the Lord's prayer, and sang some songs.

The trumpet guide as usual, opened the circle, speaking in his usual form of voice; after which the guides and departed family relatives and friends, spoke through the trumpet. Being a family circle, we of the family, knew about all the relatives and friends who spoke, from their names given, and likewise so of the guides.

In a general way, it was quite the same as the public gathering and so far as results were concerned, it was quite equal to the large circle. We each and all, had many more come to us, than in the other way, and in just as good voice and manner. As I recall that meeting, there were present, the two mediums, my sister, her husband, my brother, his wife and myself.

Some time after this meeting at my sister's home, I arranged with the mediums to come to my own home, or rather my brother's home with whom I lived at that time.

My sister and her husband, my brother and his wife, the two mediums and myself, were all who attended. We had in a general way, quite as good results as were

obtained at my sister's home. Those private circles lasted about an hour or a little more.

The voices were very distinct and clear, as I now remember them. The first few times a spirit used the trumpet, their voice was rather indistinct, and sometimes we could not fully understand them; but after having used the trumpet a few times, they learned how to use it, and improved from that time on.

If, at any of the meetings, conditions were not good, we often sat quite a long time for any manifestation. Even the trumpet guide's voice was weak, and sometimes inaudible. A few times we abandoned the meeting entirely, after sitting, for a half hour or so.

Sometimes, after the trumpet guide had opened the circle, the manifestations were quite slow and weak. If it continued so for some time, the trumpet guide would close the meeting, saying the forces were not strong enough to proceed.

On a few of the evenings, Mrs. Brown closed the circle, after waiting some time; the trumpet guide evidently, not being able to come to do that part. If any disturbance occurred that upset the mediums; as it really did to my knowledge, spiritual communication stopped entirely. Sometimes it would resume after we waited for a while, again it would stop altogether for that evening.

If the trumpet guide had sufficient strength, he would close the circle, and if he did not come within the time expected, Mrs. Brown would close it.

For those meetings, there was seldom any charge, unless the circle had proceeded quite a long time. I may say further, that weather conditions, affected the results obtained. If it stormed very hard, the results were usually poor, and sometimes we got nothing.

A heavy thunder storm at one time, seemed to stop all communication for the evening, although before the storm came, we had been sitting for some considerable time, with apparent good conditions and results. All storms seemed to have a depressing effect.

As a general rule, conditions were not as good in very hot weather, we then placed a pan of cold water on the

floor, inside the circle, as the trumpet guide had suggested we would do. After which, conditions improved.

I presume too, hot weather affected the people sitting, to make them uncomfortable; then too, there were no windows open in the seance room, for absolute darkness was required. We removed our vests and coats, and made ourselves as comfortable as possible.

The average person will wonder, how twelve to eighteen people could sit together in a close room, for an hour or more, in hot weather. As a general rule, the attendance was not so large when the weather was very warm, but I have sat several times, in the circle, when it was quite warm, and did not feel uncomfortable. The room was well ventilated before we sat down. I don't know but some means was provided to give ventilation, but cannot now recall just how it was.

MATERIALIZATION

WHILE in Flournoy Street, we had some manifestations shown by the mediums in materialization. This was occasionally shown after the developing class. We used to sit in a half circle around a corner of the seance room, across which corner, two cambric curtains were hung from a string, stretched about seven feet above the floor. The curtains parted in the middle, sliding to each side, on the string. There was a very dim light in the room. Miss Brown used to go in behind the curtains for a few minutes, and then come and stand out in the room, leaving the curtains parted about two feet.

Small forms appeared at the opening, dressed in quite natural form. One I recall, was that of a spirit woman, with a child beside her. The forms were not more than one-half life size. There were a couple small children appeared in white gowns. Those figures seemed to move without walking. There were only a very few, short demonstrations of this nature held at that time, of which, I have no very clear recollection, and will not proceed any further to describe them.

During the time that the meetings were held at Jackson Place, an invitation was given to me, to attend a special seance that was to be held, beginning about two o'clock in the afternoon. A dinner preceded the seance. This dinner and seance were planned by the spirit people, and arranged for, by the trumpet guide, with the mediums. We learned that this was so, but the mediums had not told us of it. The full nature of it was told us afterward by the guides, in our regular seances.

There were twenty-four people present at that meeting, including the two mediums. A very nice dinner, was served by Mrs. Brown, assisted by several of the ladies present. The dinner lasted about an hour or perhaps somewhat more.

The table was then cleared off, and the dishes re-

moved to the kitchen, where the ladies washed and put them away. The furniture was all moved out of the room, and camp chairs brought in, and arranged around one corner of the room, in a half circle, which occupied about three-fourths of the room. In one corner, two cotton curtains were hung from a cord, about seven feet above the floor. The cord was fastened between two window casings, making the face of the curtains as they hung, about six feet across.

Mr. Brown and I, prepared the room for this circle, which was to be, a manifestation in materialization. Mr. Brown had prepared a lamp, that would give sufficient light to make all visible in the room, but without showing a bright light. It was just sufficient to show a dim light, so all present could be seen plainly.

For this purpose, a small lamp was placed inside a wooden box, one side of which the opening, twelve by fourteen inches, about, was covered with thin bolting cloth. This permitted the light to brighten the dark room, for we had covered all the windows. The box was hung by cords from the ceiling, about a foot or so, and was high enough from the floor, so anyone could walk under it. The light in the box, behind this thin cloth screen, was turned down, so that the room was just dimly lighted, but we could plainly distinguish each other.

When we all took our seats, in that large semi-circle in the room, facing the cabinet, or two curtains stretched across the corner, each end of the circle reached within about one foot of each side of the curtains or cabinet. The center of the half circle, was probably ten feet from the curtains.

Our improvised lamp, worked finely; and gave just a dim light, affording us a view of everybody present.

Everyone was seated, except Miss Brown, who remained standing throughout the entire seance. I was seated a little to the left of the center of the circle, as we faced the cabinet. Next to my left, sat Mr. Brown, then Mrs. Brown's father and then Mrs. Brown, with three or four people, between her and the left side of the cabinet. I was acquainted with all those who sat to the right of me, forming that side of the circle.

As above stated, Miss Brown did not sit in the circle, but walked, or stood on the floor, passing from one side to the other, in front of the curtains.

We began as usual, with saying the Lord's prayer, and then sang a couple hymns. The trumpet guide then came in, and opened the circle with a few appropriate words, without using the trumpet, stating that the spirit people, were going to try to give an exhibition of spirit manifestation, and asked all present, to give their best thoughts in assistance to them, and said he hoped it would all prove successful. We did not see the trumpet guide, but his voice was quite as clear and natural as usual.

Miss Brown then stepped inside the curtains of the cabinet. After being there a minute or two, she called to two ladies to my right, to step inside the cabinet with her, which they did, remaining for probably a couple minutes, then resuming their seats. She then called for a lady and gentleman, to join her in the cabinet, explaining, it was for the purpose of gathering forces for materialization.

Those people remained inside the cabinet with the medium, about two minutes, returning to their seats in the circle. I was then called with another lady, inside the cabinet. We simply stood inside those thin cambric curtains. There was no other preparation whatever, in that cabinet, as it was called. We just stood with the medium there.

After the lady who accompanied me behind the curtains and I came out of the cabinet, Miss Brown followed us, turning to the right side of the curtains, as we faced them; Mrs. Brown sitting in her seat, near the left side of the cabinet, where she remained throughout the whole seance, and Miss Brown standing, or moving slowly about, on the floor, always to the right of the cabinet, after the seance started, and outside of it, in plain view of all who were sitting in the circle. She did not go inside the curtains after coming out, when the lady spoken of and I had returned to our seats.

Miss Brown had been outside only a few seconds, when a white form; the full form of a lady, dressed in

a long white loose fitting robe, appeared outside the curtains and called for a lady, sitting near the right end of the circle, just behind where the medium was standing.

The medium caught the name from the spirit, and told the lady the spirit wanted her to step up to the curtain, which she did. The spirit seemed to take her by the arm, and moved with her toward the medium, going about six feet from the curtain; and then led the lady back to the curtain; the spirit passing inside the cabinet behind the curtains, as they came together in the middle. The lady then resumed her seat.

A few seconds following; the form of a child appeared in front of the curtains dressed in white, like a night robe. Standing in front of the curtains, the spirit called mama, mama, and then gave her mother's name. The medium called the mother, who sat a little to my right. She advanced to the spirit child, and it put both its little hands up to take its mother's hand, and stood there, only a few seconds, and disappeared behind the curtains.

In a few seconds, another child appeared, and called papa, and called my surname. The medium said, she thought she was my child. I stood up, and walked toward the child. She took both my hands in hers, and advanced toward the middle of the circle with me, holding both my hands. She did not speak to me, but as she stood, holding my hands out in the circle, she dematerialized right at my feet; going down through the floor. She just seemed to settle down, disappearing by degrees; her body, her little white night dress, and finally her head, disappeared, as it all, settled gently toward the floor.

Following my little child, several spirit ladies, dressed in the white gowns, came to different people, in the circle, and moved around the circle resting upon their arms. Some of them spoke to those people, as they thus moved about with them; finally disappearing as my child did, in plain view of all of us, in the circle. The medium being always in plain view, standing, or slowly moving about at the right, outside the curtains. All the family remaining in their seats, in the circle.

Many spirit people, thus appeared but they were women or children. No men, or men guides materialized, to my knowledge; though some of them spoke independently, not using the trumpet.

And by the way, the trumpet was placed on the floor, large end down, about the middle of the circle. One of the spirit guides, who used to sing in our general circles, came and sang one of her favorite hymns, "Onward Christian Soldiers." She used to sing this song, with great power, and beauty of vocal tone, in contralto.

This same spirit singer, gave us a demonstration in plain view, of how she performed this wonderful feat, which we had so many times before, heard and witnessed, while sitting in the dark circle. She came about the middle of the time of our seance. She appeared as a full grown woman; slender in form and tall; dressed in a loose fitting white robe, like a night gown. She came from the cabinet, moving toward the trumpet.

Picking up the trumpet with both hands, holding her right hand near the mouthpiece, and supporting the trumpet with the left hand, up to a natural horizontal position, as anyone would hold it to use it, she said through it, that she would demonstrate to us, how the spiritual people, used the trumpet, with a few other pleasant remarks.

She then began the singing, of Onward Christian Soldiers; singing three verses of it, in just the same beautiful tone of voice, and also with the great power of rendition, that she had performed it in the dark circle.

When she had completed the song, she made some remarks through the trumpet, that I do not now recall. She then placed the trumpet down on the floor, just as she had taken it up; then standing just where she was, disappeared; gradually sinking through the floor, until her head disappeared from sight.

Shortly following this great demonstration, a spirit guide appeared, dressed like an oriental lady. I do not know now, what nationality she represented. Her dress suggested Persian, or Egyptian pattern. It was dark in color, very elaborately fashioned, with beading and dark lace work. The whole dress was decorated with

large round, flat brass metal appearing plates or buttons, about one and one-half inches in diameter.

She apparently represented a princess, or perhaps a dancing girl, or at least, some very fancy costume. She moved quite gracefully, inside our circle, as if to display this beautiful dress. I do not recall, if she spoke to us or not, but she remained in view, for several minutes; then standing near the trumpet, about the center of the circle, she began to dematerialize, and settled gradually down, as the other spiritual people had done, until her head disappeared, down through the floor.

During this seance, it was on toward the close; the white form of a woman appeared, outside the curtains, and called my first name. Miss Brown called to me, saying she thought she must be my wife. I stepped up from my chair, and advanced to meet the figure before the curtains. She grasped both my hands in hers, as I put mine up, to meet her upraised hands, pressing them, as though in warm greeting, she said: I am so glad, to meet you in this way; then loosening her grasp, and taking my left arm, with her right hand, turned toward where Miss Brown was standing; we moved together in that way, as though she was leading me, as she seemed to do; we walked past the medium, and around the entire inside of the circle; passing in front of all the people sitting, until we got back in front of the cabinet, where she released her hold on my arm, and facing me, said good-bye. She then settled down, right where she stood, until her whole form disappeared from view, through the floor. Her garments seemed to vanish, as they came in contact with the floor, as she went down.

I could not recognize my wife's voice, as I knew her, nor was this ever so, when she came through the trumpet. The grasp of her hand on my arm, as I walked around the circle with her, was very natural, and apparently real. Her manner of speaking to me, was much like her own character. This in particular, was what impressed me most; it was really like what she would say and do.

This whole seance lasted over two hours, of continuous materializing and dematerializing, as I have here described. I do not give the full details of this great

meeting, as it would be impossible for anyone to do, in such a way that would convey an understanding to any reader, of its full import; but I have tried to give a general description of the facts, as I viewed them. I have no doubt, this statement will be verified in the future time, by like manifestations.

I am fully confident, that with proper conditions given to them, by our earth people, the people of the spirit world, can freely converse with us. In my belief, families residing on the spirit and earth sides of life, will freely converse with each other in the time to come, when we will have better understanding of this subject.

With regard to the movement of the spirit forms which we saw in the seance of that afternoon. I do not believe that any of the spirit figures walked, but rather seemed to me to just move about, without movement of the lower limbs. In fact I did not see their feet or limbs; for the gown worn seemed to come down about to the floor. In the case of the Egyptian girl the dress seemed to be considerably above the floor at the bottom, but I do not think her feet could be seen, or at least, I do not think I saw them. Looking at the moving figure as I did, I would think I would have seen her feet, if they were visible.

There was quite a considerable comment, upon the proceedings of this materializing seance, at the following trumpet meeting; verifying what we saw, but I do not now recall it clear enough, to repeat it accurately, and will not attempt to.

In a general way, the seance was considered a great accomplishment, by the spirit people, for it was they who really performed it; using the sensitiveness of the mediums, combined with the harmonious conditions, existing among all those who sat as witnesses of it.

I never knew those people to give another seance like this, and I think it was about the last materializing seance I attended at Browns'.

The results of it were to me, very wonderful; and taking the active part I did in preparing for it, I feel now, that what we saw that afternoon, was real spiritual work.

PRIVATE SEANCES

MRS. BROWN and her daughter gave private sittings to any of the people who were in the habit of attending their regular meetings. Arrangements for the same were made in advance, by those wishing to make an appointment with them.

One or more of a family, usually made those appointments. The usual charge, was one dollar for each person. I believe a smaller charge was made, if more than two or three people of a family sat together.

In the course of my investigation, I sat quite a number of times with those mediums, with no one else with me. I always paid them more than the single dollar for those sittings; though one dollar was all they charged, and really objected to take more. I felt however, that so small an amount did not pay them, when the two of them were present.

At those meetings, one received from six to ten of their spirit family and guides, and I think it sometimes exceeded that number. Besides, there seemed to be no particular time limit of conversation with our people, which established quite a natural form of communication. Nothing was hurried, as we always felt in the public meeting; fearing the spirit would be obliged to leave, before fully completing an interview, rather than take up the time allotted by the spirit guide to another spirit person; in order that everyone in the meeting would meet their friends and relatives.

A private sitting lasted about an hour, to an hour and a quarter. Those I had the pleasure to attend, were very interesting and instructive to me; for I made it a rule, during my whole investigation of this subject, to reach as far as I could to get at fundamental principles. It was facts, that I endeavored to reach; and not a desire to satisfy an idle curiosity. I was spending my time and money, following this trail, that extended over a period of about seven years, with those two mediums. My pur-

pose was certainly an honest and an earnest one ; to establish in my own mind, a true understanding of this spiritual subject. At no time during that whole period, would I have been willing to accept any word, figure or statement, from any supposed spiritual source, that did not appeal to my judgment as true. I would not during any of that time, have tolerated imposition on the part of the mediums, if I was aware of it, and I want to here state again, that I have never been aware of any deception, on the part of those great mediums during my acquaintance and relationship with them, in their meetings.

As I came to know them more and more, our friendship deepened, and my respect for them increased.

In the later years of my attendance, I was on quite a friendly footing, and felt it a pleasure to go to those meetings ; though sometimes no spiritual communication came to me, and rarely more than one or two of an evening. I wished always that all present, especially those who had been coming only a short time, would have the pleasure of meeting their own people ; and by this means, have an opportunity to become established in this belief, and come to an understanding of it.

How many expressions of joy have I heard, from those who grasped the principle of spirit return to this earth and realized the truth of it. To feel the certainty that it was really their own departed family ; a brother, sister, father, mother, relative or friend ; who came to see them and tell them, that they were still living and happy ; enjoying life far beyond what they had known in their residence upon the earth plane.

At some of those private sittings, my brother attended with me, he having been there many times before ; thereby being quite familiar with the work. Before his first coming to the meetings, he was very skeptical upon the subject of spiritualism, for he had read much about it, as I had myself ; of all the fraud perpetrated upon the public ; and little or nothing in favor of it.

A comparatively short attendance at our seances, convinced him of its truth ; and he has now followed it for many years.

We had sat before together, at private sittings with those people, and about always with splendid results. Most of our late departed family, and some of our friends and relatives came.

The whole sitting of an hour and more, for exact time was never observed at any of those seances, and communications came often after the usual time; I mean a set time, and until the trumpet guide closed them.

My brother and I sitting together, seemed to bring good conditions, and we always had a pleasant meeting. He is of a jolly nature, and this helped very materially.

At one of those private sittings, we had quite a surprise. Usually, the form of opening was much like that observed at the large meetings. The Lord's prayer was said, and we would then sing, Nearer My God to Thee, or any other familiar hymn. If no spirit came we might just talk together in quite an informal way, and on any topic that might happen to be mentioned, by anyone sitting. By this it will be understood, a condition of harmony among us was produced.

At our meeting above mentioned, the seance was held in a small room, adjoining the regular seance room; for it was less trouble to the mediums to get that room prepared than the larger room, and it was their practice to use it for private sittings or readings, as the mediums commonly called those private seances.

A small lamp was used in this room to light it until the people got seated, for even though it was the afternoon, and full daylight, that room was made dark; and a light was necessary to see our way, to get comfortably seated.

There were just the four of us; the two mediums, my brother and myself. We did not sit close together, but in a kind of square, three or four feet probably between us. The mediums sat opposite the two of us; and as we sat down, having closed the door on entering the room, Mrs. Brown as she sat in her chair, looked at me and said: Mr. James, you may please turn out the light.

Turning in my chair to my right, still remaining seated, I reached to the lamp, which was resting on a small center table. I put out my right hand to turn out

the light. My fingers had not touched the small wheel of the burner, which controlled the wick, when the light, flared up in the lamp chimney and went out. It was not in any way, as if it had been turned out, and I remarked—why; that light went right out, before I touched the burner! I was quite amazed, and passed several remarks about it, arousing quite an interest among the other people sitting, who began to ask me questions.

It was only a few seconds, when the trumpet was picked up, and the trumpet guide began to laugh through it, very heartily, and very audibly, for he had such a clear and beautiful full voice. He said: "I thought I would just do that for you Mr. James, to save you the trouble; it is only a little joke."

He was always so friendly and pleasant, and used such choice language and expression, that I always liked to hear him speak, and felt sorry invariably, when he laid the trumpet down. His thoughts seemed so beautiful and appropriate to the occasion. In those years that I knew him, I really grew to love him, he was so kind and considerate; always doing good, and trying to help everyone. He never used any discordant or harsh word, no matter what the occasion might be. What he said was elevating and inspiring always.

This same spirit of feeling, was true with all the guides; no wonder we took the interest we did in them.

On this very ground, I have based my conviction of the truth of spirit return, and proof in the manifesting as they did to us, in those great circle meetings.

In my belief, it would have been impossible to produce those circles by artificial means, as we witnessed them. It would have been beyond the range of human power to do so. No matter what ability there might have been on the part of skillful actors, or how much training they might have had, a single one, of those seances as we witnessed them, could not have been produced.

To do so in continuous form, for a period of seven years of my own knowledge; without mistakes occurring to expose any deception, upon so technical and difficult a performance, would be beyond my comprehension.

Those private seances, were of a beautiful character too. Besides the freer communication with our own people, our guides delivered some of the most beautiful lectures on spiritual subjects.

Besides, our Indian guides, who, as I have before said, are all people of very superior intellect and experience, as they so many times proved to us, by their great lectures.

Other learned men and women spoke to us, several of whom told us, they had lived upon this earth, long before the time of Christ. The beauty of their quaint language, would be impossible for me to describe, but they often moved us all, very much.

They told us, that life in the spirit world is a constant course of progression. Judging by their own manner of expression, it seemed evident to me, that their life must be of a very superior kind. They said too, that very much light exists in the higher spheres; very much greater than we have on earth.

In the regular circles, guides came to many of the people who were sitting, and spoke to them in other than the English language, or broken Indian, that was so common with the Indian guides. The Indian guides sometimes spoke the language of their tribes, as they told us; but of course they could not be understood.

Some of them spoke German, to some of the German people, who were sitting with us, who answered them in German. One I remember, spoke Norwegian or Swedish, to one of our circle, who talked freely with the guide in the same language. One spoke in broken English and Chinese, and some of the time, drifted into the Chinese language altogether, so we could not understand him, and then laughed, as though he thought it a good joke. He was a very happy spirit, and used to come to see us, and speak to us, quite often, and always caused considerable merriment. He came to one of the gentlemen sitting with us.

Another guide, who announced his name with the prefix of doctor, spoke with a beautiful voice; that of a strong public speaker. His was a pure American voice. Every word was plainly enunciated. His thoughts were

so clear and intelligent, it was a great pleasure to hear him. No public speaker I have ever heard, would, I believe, be superior to him in the short discourses he delivered to us, so clear was his language.

The ancient guides, the Greek philosophers, who flourished upon this earth, four to six hundred years prior to the Christian era, and those from ancient Persia and Egypt, delivered some of the most beautiful lectures. Those were mostly given in the private readings or sittings; though some of those ancient people spoke at the public meetings.

It was to those ancient guides I referred, in the former part of this work, who touched our sympathetic feelings so much.

The one thing, that seemed to underlie the thought of those celestial people was, to convey to us; the kindly interest that prevails in the spiritual world, for those of us in earth life; that they try in every way possible to them, to give us their assistance, to uplift us all they can.

If the time will come, as I believe it will, when they can and will come; if the way is opened by us for them to do so, we will be able to receive direct communication with them.

They will be able to deliver to us in person, as they did in our small circle meetings; long lectures upon what our future life will really be. This will come so directly to us, there will be no doubt, as to its real spiritual source.

It is my belief, that no medium, no matter what assistance there might have been, could possibly have produced those communications as I witnessed them, and that they were of a real spiritual nature.

It seems, that each of us really has, a number of those guides, who interest themselves in our welfare; though probably only some of them remain with us most of the time. It seems almost certain at least, we are never left entirely alone, and that one or more of our guides are constantly with us; that we are influenced in our actions by them, and the peculiar prompting that comes through our conscience, is that of our spiritual people impressing us.

Much of the accomplishments of our inventors and writers, and those who do works that redound to great benefit here, can quite probably; be traced back to the impressions made by the spiritual guide, upon the mind of his mortal medium.

Practically all things which happen here and that are done here, seem to be foreknown in the spirit world. The formation of them here, is largely from the assistance given by the spirit people.

This may seem very strange, and quite unbelievable to most people, who will read these lines, but it really seems to be true.

WHAT IS A GUIDE?

IN reading this book, the question that is likely to come to the reader's mind will be: What, and who is a guide?

As we were told by the spiritual people in our circles, that as the new spiritual people rise, from one sphere to another in their progression, this progress is made through the assistance given by the guides or spiritual people, who have been in celestial life long enough to qualify as teachers.

It seems that some of those have greater ability than others, according to the longer experience they have. It seems too it is a part that all must take, who will rise in spirit life; and is part of their development.

It seems that when spiritual people rise to a certain grade or state; it is incumbent upon them, to return to the lower spheres, to assist those who are in need of their help. It will be understood by this; the guides are missionaries from higher life, who descend into the lower life of people, to instruct and aid them.

It appears also, that certain experience of earth life is necessary, as a preparation for spiritual life, on the part of those who have unfinished their natural course of life on earth; for which they, as spiritual beings, return to complete. I cannot explain just how this applies, for if it was explained to us, as I believe it was, the reason does not now come clear enough for me to state.

I am quite certain though, it was stated; that our unfinished natural earth life, must be completed here, for which, the spirit person returns to earth, to gain that knowledge; attaching itself to some one still in mortal life.

I do not know how this law applies to children. All the spiritual children who came to the circle, seemed to grow in knowledge very fast; much more so than earth children do. Judging by the apparent progress they

made, it seemed to me, they were not retarded in their spiritual progress, if they did come to earth, to gain the experience of the older ones of earth.

After the spiritual people, have reached the higher spiritual life, their return to the lower conditions, seems to be less frequent. This is where they have completed their missionary work, and have risen by their own merit, to the higher life. This is a sort of outline only, and not a statement in detail, of which I am unable to give.

Miss Brown, was sometimes much affected, by having conditions thrown upon her by spiritual people, who came for the first time, to meet their earth relatives or friends who sat in the circle.

I will cite just one case, to make this subject clear. While sitting in the circle, and sometimes before we would go into the circle room engaged in conversation in the parlor, the medium would be seized by some form of sickness, which would distress her very much. She would always tell of such things, as soon as she would be taken that way, telling just how she was affected, and give the spirit's name, or some description of the spirit who had caused that influence, by which it would be recognized by the person whom it had come to see.

She would say for instance, beginning to cough, as though her lungs were affected, that such a spirit, giving the spirit's name some of the time; was calling for some one in the circle or assembly; that she had passed out of this life by consumption, or any other disease that she might describe, and really feel herself affected by. The medium would go on describing the newly come spirit, until someone in the circle would recognize the description as fitting the case of a relative or friend.

If anyone present recognized the description, and it proved to be the person whom the spirit came to see, the control would leave the medium; and thereby be recognized, as the one spoken of by the medium.

I have often known the medium to be made very sick, by the influence of the spiritual people, coming for the first time to their people. They did not know how to use the trumpet, and had no other means to identify them-

selves to their people. The guides would generally tell of those people, but sometimes they came through the medium herself.

I had one peculiar experience of this kind myself, that may more fully explain, how this phenomenon operated.

I had attended the meeting, feeling quite well in every way. A short time after the light had been turned out, and the proceedings of the circle had gone on for perhaps fifteen or twenty minutes; I began to feel rather badly. This feeling grew gradually worse, and continued so for probably ten minutes; when I had grown very sick to the stomach, and was obliged to ask Mrs. Brown if I might be excused from the circle; stating that I was ill. She replied: Why yes; we will light the gas so you may pass out.

Knowing that if the light were turned on; general conditions would be much impaired and delayed, by reason of lighting the dark room, I requested that I might be permitted to just back my chair out of the circle, and then find my way through the door of the room to the kitchen, which was also dark.

I groped my way through the kitchen, to the rear door, for I was familiar with the place. I then walked down the rear steps into the back yard, in the open air; as I thought that might revive me.

I grew sicker however; and walking over to the rear fence, I went through a very agonizing retching spell, as though I would throw up, but was unable to do so. I felt very sick indeed. The attack continued for some considerable time, which seemed several minutes; and then gradually subsided, without being able to discharge the contents of my stomach.

I stayed in the open air as I gradually recovered, and in probably ten minutes or so, felt comparatively well again. I then went back into the house. When Mrs. Brown heard me coming in, she had the light turned on in the circle, and her daughter came into the kitchen.

Her mother had told her, to prepare some hot peppermint for me, which she did in a few minutes on the

gas stove, and gave me quite a strong drink, which had the effect of settling my stomach. She then asked me to join them again in the circle, for they did not feel any alarm that anything serious was wrong.

We all got seated again in the circle. After a short period, when a song had been sung, one of the guides came in for a short time; then other communications came through the trumpet. In the course of some ten or fifteen minutes perhaps, a silence came, which often happened during a period between the speaking of the spirit people.

The silent spell lasted for probably two or three minutes, when finally, we heard a very low whisper, come through the trumpet. I heard it to my left side, a couple times; but it was so very faint, that no one could understand the whisper. Mrs. Brown called to the spirit, and told it to take strength, and try to make itself known.

The trumpet then came and rested on my hand, as it lay in my lap, as I sat in my chair. It remained only a few seconds, when it was raised off my hand. In a few seconds the whisper was again repeated. It was to a young lady, sitting three chairs from me to my left. This lady asked the spirit, to speak a little louder if it could, so she might be able to understand. The name was given louder, and the lady understood. It was the name Anna, spoken still very low. When the lady caught the name, she said: Anna, is this you. The trumpet fell to the floor; coming down sideways, as it had been held while speaking.

The lady was quite overcome; and silence in the circle prevailed for some minutes, when she announced, that the spirit was her sister, who had committed suicide about two years before, by taking poison.

The trumpet had been replaced to its standing position in the circle, by some one picking it up and putting it where it should be.

In a short time, one of the guides came speaking through the trumpet, and explained to us saying: The sickness that had come over me, was caused by that suicide spirit, who came through my mediumship; throw-

ing the same condition over me, and causing me the same feeling, as that which had caused her death. He said, the spirit wanted to express her thankfulness to me, for being the means through whom she was enabled to speak to her sister.

This same spirit herself thanked me in an after meeting, and expressed regret, that she had caused me so much anguish.

I do not know why she used my magnetism, instead of that of the medium. I do not recall another incident like it during my experience.

WHY WE, IN MORTAL LIFE, CANNOT SEE SPIRITUAL PEOPLE OR HEAR SPIRIT- UAL COMMUNICATIONS

THE question may be asked, why we in mortal life, are unable to receive tangible evidence of a spirit life?

This is quite a common, and reasonable question, and I will try to give the best answer to it I can.

It seems there is a law, or at least a principle in nature, known as vibration; that this law enters into the practical working of nearly all natural things. It is known to exist in the atmosphere, and to probably derive its power from the elements of the atmosphere; and forms one of the elementary controls of nature, and no doubt, to a very large degree. New forms, of the workings of this law, have been discovered in the past century. It is no doubt, one of the great principles, that underlie all life and all motion. Electricity is probably largely dependent upon it. Vegetable life, the movement of our planetary systems, and in fact the whole universe, probably derives a certain control from vibration.

Coming down to very recent discovery, we have the reproduction of sound, from the disk of the phonograph, where sound waves have been recorded upon a hard substance, by means of vibration, reproducing the most minute details of any number of sounds, as faithfully as they were originally produced.

It seems, this law enters into spirit life, and in a higher order than it exists in earth life. That spirit life as it pertains to man, is a higher order of existence.

Allowing this to be true, does it not seem quite reasonable, that we here in earth life, may be barred from communication with the spiritual world, because our vibratory condition is in a lower key, than that of spirituality?

This is a mere suggestion of a principle, that may take many years to unravel, but is in my belief, one of the principal causes, why we cannot easily communicate directly with the spirit world, as we live here.

We are in a lower vibratory state; does it not seem reasonable, that our own vibratory sensibilities may be quickened, and made more receptive, when our minds are given up to spiritual subjects and spiritual research.

If we have the attendance of spiritual guides in our daily life, as we really seem to have, can it not be possible that they, if encouraged by our own wish and our own assistance, develop our sensitiveness to their control.

This seems to be the case, and is the course, that leads a person who is still in mortal life, up to the condition of mediumship, which is, in my belief, the quickening of his, or her vibratory power.

By this quickening process, the power to see, hear and feel, the spiritual control is established; when before, we being in the lower vibratory state, would be wholly unconscious of this spiritual influence; as it would not act upon us to the degree, that we could understand it. I write this, only as my own view of this subject.

When it comes to explain the reason, for our inability to understand spiritual manifestation, as it has thus far been demonstrated in various ways, allowance should be made; for the advancement of knowledge in this matter, will require time, and intelligent investigation, combined with patience; to accept the evidence as it comes to us by degrees, as it surely will in my belief; if we only follow faithfully, an honest purpose of search for it.

It is my belief, that almost any small body of people; say two, three, four or five, can make a test of spirit phenomena for themselves. If they can succeed in doing so, it will be more convincing to them, than if they were to consult professional mediums; for a doubt may quite naturally exist, where such mediums are concerned; in this day of legerdemain.

As in my own early experience, where six people including myself, sat around a small sewing table with our hands lightly laid upon the top of it, receiving in a very

short time, movements of that table; which I have since learned, was spiritual power, manifested through the movement of the table to such a degree, we were all fully satisfied, the movement was not caused by our own exertion, and as it was proved, when the table was raised and held, for fully two minutes, upon one leg, with no support from underneath, and only the contact of my own hands, resting on the top of it, to keep it in that suspended position.

I have no doubt that others, can do this same thing as we did, if they will give the matter, a careful and practical trial.

Procure a very light table, that will rest firmly upon its four legs, so it will not wobble, get a party of four or five earnest people, to give this a trial, as we did. When you are sitting, do not think of your business affairs, just sit naturally and negatively. If any vibration comes to the table, do not think some one of your party is causing it, for you are sitting to make this test. Carry the experiment through earnestly and honestly. If you do not get any result in the way of an answer, or at least the feeling that an electrical force is present, after sitting fifteen or twenty minutes; discontinue that sitting, and try it again, two or three times at some future time.

It may not be possible, for your spirit people to do this for you, as sufficient force may not be available for them to collect. If you give them the best of conditions, it is more than likely they will do their part, and will reward you for your time and trouble.

Act earnestly, for if you sit in a skeptical and derisive spirit, you put up a bar, against the successful carrying out of this experiment.

If you get results, no matter how small, give them your best thought, for that is the very force they need. Sing a few well chosen hymns, the same as you would like to hear at church, and feel, that you are in a spiritual presence, and endeavoring to communicate with them; treating them with all the respect of thought and act, that they should be worthy of. You need not be sober; a joyful spirit is better and more helpful. Laugh and be

good natured, and talk to the spirit present, who is really moving the table, just as though he stands there in person; he can hear you.

If it is a real manifestation, the spiritual person is standing beside you, though you will not see him. He will give you proof of his presence, if he or she is able, so give them all the good thoughts you can to help their work along.

Try this experiment several times; sit in a dimly lighted room, without having your minds set on anything; keep in this receptive and negative mood, all the time that you are sitting for the spirit.

Your everyday affairs, should not be discussed while sitting thus, for it must be remembered, the mind is a force; and if it is acting against the work that you have in hand, your effort will probably be a failure.

The "Ouija" (wege) board, can be used successfully to prove spirit phenomena, and real spirit control, if too much is not expected of it; for results depend upon mediumship. It should be borne in mind though, that anyone placing his or her hand upon the small stand, that is supposed to, and does move upon the lettered table if so controlled, may not be fully, or even at all controlled in reality. Such a person should be blindfolded, so that he cannot see any of the figures on the table. If in this way, intelligent answers come on the table, questions should be continued, in order to give the spiritual control, practice in the use of his medium's hand, which is on the stand.

I would think it would require some considerable time, for any spiritual control to gain full use of a mortal's hand, so as to give dependable answers; for the fact must not be lost sight of, that if the spirit has not fully got control of its medium's hand, the answers coming in this way, will be unreliable, and should be considered for only what they seem to be worth. In all cases where a spiritual test is made, accurate results depend upon perfect mediumship.

Months, and even years would probably be necessary, for the spirit present, to get the control of the medium's hand, so that his own spiritual will, may be carried out.

I make this explanation, in order that those who may undertake this experiment, will know from the beginning, the difficulty that confronts the spiritual person who is trying to prove his presence; but has only an undeveloped medium, through whom to do so. In this case, reliable answers can hardly be given.

This experiment will answer however as a demonstration, that this Ouija board is not moved by the person whose hand is upon it, and many surprising answers can be secured, if a sensitive person uses the board.

Some people are very slightly mediumistic by nature. If such a one should try the experiment with no apparent success, after a few earnest trials; it will be well not to persist in the experiment, but let someone else try for them, and observe what result may take place.

If any medium can be found who possesses the mediumship for trumpet, which is very rare; much encouragement, should be given that person, to cultivate such a gift. The very best influence and assistance should be secured to properly develop them, and keep them in a pure and wholesome atmosphere. If such a medium, can have the assistance to keep her above the necessity of any lower influence, it will pay any community, to act as her ward; to encourage only the purest and best of spirituality, to come through her mediumship.

She should be kept above want, but by no means, to live in luxury or extravagance. She should mingle in the best company, but be always a public servant in her mediumistic capacity, giving out all of the best that will come through her.

If a man, or men can be found, who develop the gift of spiritual trumpet work, they should be assisted and encouraged, in their work; for by this assistance, great knowledge, may come from our higher life, through them. It will be by general co-operation along these lines, that the best in this new field, can be attained.

The trumpet is, in my belief, the very best form of mediumship, and if properly developed, and safeguards thrown around the mediums, to keep them from want, or improper influence; to build them up, so that the very purest and best of spirituality will come through them.

A helpful public, who will join together in this work will, in my mind, gain large return in knowledge, conveyed from the spirit world.

If some strong medium can be developed; or if those great mediums of whom I speak, can now be secured, to give public tests of their great work; it will answer as a beginning at least, in the investigation of this subject.

It is a very difficult thing for mediums, to give trumpet work to public audiences; for the reason in my belief, of inability to get concentrated force for the work.

When we used to sit for this work, the trumpet guide, always objected to having more than about fifteen people present; telling us that more people, interfered with the best results. I think his objection was somewhat on the ground, that the forces extended for only a certain time; and all present, wished to speak to their own spirit people. Where more than a usual number of people were admitted to the circle, communications were necessarily shortened; some might have but one, and sometimes no spirit person come to them.

It was the usual desire, as I understood it, that an average of two communications would come to each person, and in some cases three. This varied quite a good deal, and did not run just uniform. In fact I cannot say, that the trumpet guide observed a regulation about this matter, but I believe he did, for in nearly all our sittings, about everybody, had some of their people speak to them, one or more times.

A number of strangers in our circle, seemed to have a depressing effect more or less, which was thought to be caused by their unbelief, or skepticism of the work. So in proportion I presume, a large audience would make manifestation more difficult and probably impossible.

It always seemed to me, that if harmonious conditions were not present, the voices were weak and slow, and sometimes we were obliged to give the meetings up altogether, as the spirit people, seemed unable to speak. Sometimes rather long intervals would elapse between communications, when conditions were slow, while at other sittings, just the reverse obtained; even with fifteen to eighteen present.

We could not understand the reason, altogether for this, but something must have caused it. The whole thing, seemed to be of a very sensitive nature, and easily upset by discordant occurrences. The mediums too, seemed to be more than ordinarily sensitive and affected by any bad conditions. I think as a rule, mediums are more sensitive in a general way than the average person.

In passing upon this subject, there is one thing which I think should be mentioned, which is; the care everybody should use, in investigating any spiritual subject. Honesty upon the part of any medium, is of first consideration. It is well for everyone to use his own judgment, as to the qualification of anyone of this profession.

In investigating this subject, a long time is necessary, in order to more fully come in contact with the different forms of the work.

The trumpet work is the only form of spiritual communication, that I have ever been interested in or connected with; for it affords a direct, speaking communication, with the spirit people, and admits of a more certain understanding of the relationship existing between spiritual and earth life.

Coming to us in actual spoken words, and expressing the actual individuality of the spiritual person, which as I have experienced; it seems to have so fully established the continuity of intelligent life as it exists here; proving, that what we do here, remains as a record with us. That we have full memory of our earth life. That all knowledge acquired in earth life, remains as a permanent endowment in our future state. That our spiritual selves, are in full possession of all our mental acquirements. That the brain of man, is not the store house, nor is it the permanent home of the intellect. All this of us is of spiritual origin, and of permanence in our life; living with us, just the same after the dissolution of our body, as it does here on earth.

That the real man, in earth life, is the spiritual man of all time to come, who lives in his body, as we live in our house, and who simply leaves his body at its dissolution; in the same practical form, as we leave our house.

The house holds no restraint upon us; and our body holds no restraint upon our spiritual selves, when dissolution takes place. The spirit is the true individual, and not the body.

The spirit uses the body, just as a machine, to perform its requirements, and is at all times, in control of the body.

The spirit is that of man, which is in full possession of all that man is, and all that he ever will be, lasting for all time, inheriting all that previous generations of our race now possess in eternal life; dating back to the remotest ages, and living for all ages to come.

It is my own private belief, that we have always lived in some way, and that our life does not really begin with our birth; as spirit seems to have no termination, does it seem beyond the range of reason to presume; that we have existed for all time; coming as a living entity, to take possession of the physical body, as it is prepared for us. This seems probably true to me.

HOW MORTALS ARE UNCONSCIOUSLY INFLUENCED, BY THEIR SPIRIT GUIDES

IT seems that everyone in earth life, has the attendance of spiritual people. We were told at the circles, that we have several, from the spirit side of life, who come to us and are with us, more or less of our time.

Allowing that we ourselves, are of spiritual nature in earth life, it may be quite natural, that impressions may be received by us from our guides and other spiritual people.

We often do things, that we wonder why we do them. May not some of those things that seem unaccountable to us, be from our spiritual influence? We were told, that this is true.

Many of the world's great happenings, may have been pre-arranged, on the other side of life. Our inventors, statesmen, and other men and women, may have been to a large degree, mere mediums to a higher influence, that has entered into and assisted in their work; inspiring them along their course.

DREAMS

THOMAS PAINE, the great patriot and statesman of revolutionary times, who took such a prominent part in our own revolution, which led up to the American independence, and at a later time; in 1792, went to France, to identify himself in that great cause: The French Revolution for the French people; wrote in his memoirs, what he believed might be, an analysis for dreams.

As we all know, our dreams are of a very mixed kind, sometimes quite reasonable, and at other times very unreasonable.

In Paine's analysis on this subject, he gives the following as his reason, for the cause of our dreams, and the various courses which they take.

He says, that "the human faculties are divided into three distinct parts, comprising the following: Judgment, imagination and memory." In his analysis, he goes on to describe, how our dreams may be affected, by the operations of these three faculties.

He says, "a dream is caused by the action of the mind, while in the state of sleep;" and the course of the dream is governed, by the operation of these three faculties as follows; as nearly as I can now quote from him.

"Of these three faculties, the most active is imagination. The second most active being judgment. The least active being memory." He states, that a dream, reasonable or otherwise, is in accordance as the faculty of judgment operates. If it is at total rest, or nearly so, the faculty of imagination, will go to extremes; making the dream quite inconsistent; where at other times, if judgment is in full force, the dream will be very reasonable.

If memory is at rest, or nearly so, the dream will be soon forgotten, and often not remembered upon waking; but if memory is awake, and operating in its full function, the dream will be minutely recalled.

These reasons seem quite plausible, and are perhaps true.

In the course of my own experiences, during the past twenty years, I am led to believe, that the dreams I have had on some occasions, were probably of spiritual origin.

During my second year at the circles, I had this peculiar dream, that was verified at the circle by the spirit of my wife.

In my dream, it appeared that I was met on the second floor of a residence building, on East Thirty-first Street, Chicago, by an Indian, dressed in full costume; wearing a shawl over his shoulders. He met me in the hallway; and stopped and looked at me in full face, without speaking, but seemingly recognized me.

Turning, and walking away from me toward the stairway, leading down in one long flight to the first floor, terminating in the reception hall. I seemed to voluntarily follow him, as he walked before me. As I was about halfway down the stairs, the Indian reached the lower floor, and turning to the right, into the open reception hall, he partly faced me; gazing up at me, as I descended the stairs. He looked intently at me, as he turned, and partly stopped; then spreading his large shawl with both hands to each side, he bowed to me, very low; both ends of his shawl as they hung from his arms, spread out on the floor.

I seemed to continue my descent of the stairs, and overtook him, as I turned and walked in the reception hall toward him. As I approached him, he turned again, walking toward a door of the room. I followed as I had done before; no word being spoken between us, up to that time. As I came to the door, following him, he turned around facing me, and standing at the far side of the door, he reached his hand to the knob, and opened the door inward. He still stood where he was, allowing me to pass in, as I did.

On passing him, he told me his name—it was that of my Indian guide, to whom I had spoken so many times at the circle, and this was the first time I had ever met him, as it were, or seemed to be, in a real physical way.

As I stepped past him in the doorway into the room, my guide followed me, leaving the door open.

As we stood together, side by side in the room, I felt quite surprised, to see several old men, seated, side by side around the room. The Indian, taking me by the arm, led me to each of those old people, and introduced me, or seemed at least, to go through that form; only speaking no words, and I did not shake hands with them.

Those old people, all looked very kindly at me, and seemed pleased to meet me. In fact, it seemed to me in the dream, that the meeting was especially arranged for my benefit. Most, if not all the old people; wore long beards, with long gray hair, and had prominent and very bald heads. They were very intelligent in appearance, but no words were spoken. The dream seemed to end while I was still among them, in the room.

It all seemed to be a rather pleasant experience. When I awoke, this dream was very vivid in my memory, and even now, after seventeen years, it is still very clear to me.

I was quite anxious to find out about this, when I attended the circle, and when my wife came to me, I asked her about it. She told me, that the old men whom I had met, were guides to me, and gave me some of their names, but she did not know all of them, but told them to me, at a subsequent circle meeting.

They proved to be, as she named them, seven old Greek philosophers. I will not give their names.

In after attendance, at rather long intervals, those old guides came and spoke to me through the trumpet, but only at private sittings. They never came at a public meeting.

Judging by the language they used, they must have been very learned people. Their language was very beautiful. They came always in a fatherly way, delivering very beautiful lectures. They never engaged me in conversation, nor spoke of our daily occurrences. Their lectures were entirely spiritual, and I am not ashamed to confess; overcame me to such a degree, that I was quite unable to restrain my feelings, and broke right out crying, in an over feeling of joy, as stated in a former chapter.

This happened, almost every time, those old people spoke to me. They never came to me at the public sittings, and it was about four years, before all of them had visited me. They had given their name, each time one came to me, which agreed with the names, my wife had given me; for I had written down the names, in order to keep them. Only one of them would come of an evening, and he would speak, probably ten minutes or more. It seemed much longer, and may have been, but we were sitting in the dark, and could not keep track of the time.

I have often wished I had a written record of those great lectures, delivered by the Grecian guides. They were all so kindly and fatherly, and so spiritually beautiful, that it would be impossible, to attempt a description of them.

Guides who came to the circle, were also very beautiful in their language and thought. They all seemed so perfectly broad and unselfish, in their whole attitude toward life. Their expressions upon all topics, no matter what they might have been, seemed so spiritual.

Another dream I had was peculiar. It happened after I had stopped attending the circles, so I never had it verified, but it seems worth recording, for it really seems to me, to bear upon this spiritual subject.

My younger brother and I, seemed to be out walking together. We came to a large frame building, that seemed to be like a great meeting house. Stepping inside the large open doors as we came to the building, we found ourselves in a large, wooden constructed theatre; with benches reaching upward and backward, apparently a hundred feet or more. The roof overhead, seemed about seventy-five feet high; and the width of the building seemed about one hundred feet or so. The benches were wooden, like church pews, with high backs, and large wooden seats. They were in sections, with aisles, running up through them, for convenient passage.

As we walked in, there seemed to be quite a few people seated. We walked over to the center row of seats, and taking off our overcoats, which we seemed to be wearing, walked into the center part of one of the

pews or seats, and sat down; laying our overcoats and hats at each side of us. There seemed to be room for probably two people, at each side of us, as we were sitting.

We sat quite leisurely, it seemed, and gazed about the building, wondering at its great architecture, and noticing the people present.

The seat we had taken, was on the level floor, just before the seats began to rise to the rear. There were several rows of seats in front of us, with a large open space, between the first row and the stage, which was raised about four feet above the floor level, and extended entirely across the whole front of the building; about one hundred feet.

The stage seemed very narrow to me, and seemed to have only a common board rail, in front of it, with no ornamentation of any kind. The whole construction of the building, was very plain, and seemed to be like a great summer meeting house.

We had just got comfortably seated, and were pre-occupied in looking about, when presently a tall, spare, dark complected and well dressed man, came down from the rear, in the aisle running to the right of our seat, as we faced forward. We seemed to see him as he approached, and I seemed to catch his eye.

He smiled pleasantly, and as he came to our seat he stopped. Looking at both of us, he made a slight gesture with his right hand, as though he wished us to stand up, and go to him, which we both voluntarily did, taking our clothes with us, and without any of us speaking.

As we approached him, he stepped slightly backward, to make room for my brother, for he was in front of me, to pass out of the pew, I following him.

This gentleman walked forward ahead of us, and ushered us to the very first seat facing the stage; then, very politely moving his right hand, as if meaning, it was a better location for us, he bowed his head slightly, and smiled, and passed back to the rear. He seemed to be a very courteous man.

We appeared to be only a very short time seated, when our attention was drawn by a commotion in the

audience. Looking to our left and upward, we saw, coming down from the rear on a run, two men dressed in skin fitting tights, of different colors. They looked like harlequins.

They ran down the aisleway, at the extreme left of the building, until they reached the narrow stage; extending across the entire front of the building.

When they reached the stage, they seemed to stand near together, facing each other for a moment; then placing their hands on each other's shoulders, they danced backward and forward, four or five times, across the entire stage, at a very rapid and very nimble pace, making many fancy, and grotesque figures as they danced. They seemed to perform like real artists, so nimble, and graceful of movement, were they.

After having performed in this manner, four or five times across the stage, a rope came dangling from the ceiling at the left end of the stage. Arriving at that point, one of the performers seized the rope in his hands, and began climbing upward, hand over hand, very rapidly; his fellow performer following immediately after him, only a few yards apart. They seemed to climb like two monkeys, swaying with the rope, as they ascended.

When the former one reached close to the ceiling, the roof opened up in front of him, and both performers seemed to climb up through the opening. The whole corner of the building, then seemed to be removed, but the rope remained; swaying as it did, while the performers were still within the building.

Looking upward, in the open clear sky, the rope reached far beyond the height of the building, into space, with the two performers, still climbing rapidly; reaching an altitude, where they looked very small to me; many hundreds of feet, up in mid air. They climbed thus, until they got entirely out of sight.

In a short time, as we seemed to be still looking upward, we could just see them descending; looking very small to us at first. As they came lower down, we could see they were seated, in an inner frame work, under two separate, large Chinese-like, umbrella parachutes. They descended very easily and slowly, floating down, rather

than descending by gravity. As they approached near where we stood ; for we all appeared to be then standing, and in the bright sunlight, which seemed to prevail, the parachutes seemed to be made in very beautiful variegated colors, in silken and gorgeous hues.

They sailed gently downward, until reaching near where we stood, when the whole performance, seemed to close. The rope seemed to disappear, shortly after they left it in mid air, to take to the parachutes.

This performance seemed so natural and real, the colors of the parachutes were so varied and vivid, the rope used, seemed so real too. In fact, the whole performance, was so much like a real circus act, extended into so great an altitude ; I have often wondered if it could be possible that it was a clairvoyant presentation to me, of a real celestial circus performance. Everything seemed so perfectly carried out, in the detail of the performance.

I cannot understand, how any such a thing could have originated with me, for it certainly was different, and beyond anything I had ever witnessed or thought of previously.

There is one other experience, I wish to note here, that I think bears on this subject, which was in my mind, quite independent of and different from a dream.

In my belief, it could not have been a dream ; as it happened when I was fully awake. I had been confined to bed a few days with sickness ; and was getting better when this happened. It happened about ten o'clock in the morning ; the daylight shining brightly in my room.

I lay on my back with my eyes closed, in a sort of negative way, not thinking particularly of anything. As I lay in that position, a slight feeling passed over me, as though I were encased in a mild electric current.

Shortly, there appeared to my vision, as though I were looking at it, on the ceiling and walls of my room ; the formation of a decorative, ceiling and wall design, of a very beautiful make, and harmonious coloring. It seemed to show the background of the room itself, with the coloring of the ceiling and walls in delicate hues.

Upon this, the decorative designs were formed, in very delicate and harmonious, colors and design.

One design after another, was shown in this way, for probably a full half hour; during which time, there were perhaps, eight or ten different full designs shown. Each design differed from any of the others, and all were so perfect in make and color, and none of them resembling at all, any which I had ever seen.

All this, seems quite inexplicable to me. I surely was not dreaming; and am absolutely certain, I was fully awake, and noting everything, as it was shown to me, though my eyes were closed all that time.

I have wondered; if this was a clairvoyant presentation of designs, used perhaps in celestial life. I had never seen anything like them. They were very complicated of pattern, and the coloring was very beautiful.

It is my private opinion, that a dream originates in a spiritual control of us, by our guides; who operate through our mediumship. This settled opinion, has come to me of late years. I have never had it verified at a circle.

In this connection, the question will be commonly asked: If dreams are of spiritual origin, why are they so unreasonable, and so seldom true? To this I would say: I believe there is an object in most, and probably all dreams.

Allowing that we all have a spiritual guide, who is present with us, at practically all times, as we have been told they are. Allowing also, that our guide possesses certain influence over our spiritual selves, in the way of guiding us in life. We were told also, that our minds are subject to this influence. If this be true, is it not reasonable, to attribute the cause of our dreams to this source?

In my own case I have observed, that usually when I dream, I am not resting comfortably, and need to change my position, to gain proper ease. It is here probably, that a startling dream arouses us to wakefulness, so that a change of position, for our further comfort and rest, will be made. This dream, may not be at all rea-

sonable, nor intended by our guide to be so; it is the effect it will produce, to carry out his intention, that is in view.

Our guides are superior people; with experience and knowledge far beyond our own. From this viewpoint, if they produce and control the course of our dreams, as I believe they do, they must invariably, have a set purpose in doing so. Dreams, as we all experience them, in their multiplied and perfect forms of detail, cannot come haphazard, and without any meaning; for nature, throughout all its course, has meaning.

When we come to study nature, we find there is no waste. All is economy and perfection. The deeper we study it, the more amazed we become; even lost completely, in its contemplation. We are quite unable, to grasp it in this life; beyond a mere superficial understanding. It is, in the centuries that lie before us, that it will, gradually be unfolded to our minds; little by little, as we journey onward in our celestial course; just as we here are, on this earth plane. It comes if we seek it, and the possession, of the knowledge of it is deferred; just so long as we do not seek it.

MEDIUMS I HAVE SEEN

DURING the time that I was investigating this subject with the trumpet mediums, and subsequent to that time, covering a period of ten years or more. I occasionally visited other mediums; engaged in other forms of spiritualistic work.

I was living in Chicago, all that time. To those who may not be familiar with the facts of this subject, it is quite true, that in Chicago, there are hundreds, and no doubt thousands of intelligent people, who are investigating this question of spiritual life; and I have no doubt, the same conditions prevail in other large cities.

The daily papers contain advertisements of spiritual mediums, and it is surprising, how many there are. Quite a little discredit has been thrown upon the belief, by undeveloped and dishonest mediums. It has been too common with people, who discovered that they possessed a degree of mediumship, to immediately capitalize that gift, and turn it to the purpose of making money for them.

When used for selfish gain, mediumship becomes dangerous; because it is not always developed, or practiced in its true form. The medium who may have developed some mediumistic power, as a clairvoyant or clairaudient (which are the two most general forms, practiced among those who make a profession of it), is prone, to a more or less degree; where a business is made of it, and a livelihood by it; to add, of their own design, to make up for deficiency in real development. For this reason, I have never been personally interested, in this form of the work.

Where money is concerned, it is always an incentive, to more or less dishonesty, and it is only fair to take this presumption, in the light of the past history of spiritual mediums. Where one investigates this subject, it is well

always, to use great care and judgment, as to those with whom we deal.

There is a medium in Chicago, who has for years, conducted public test meetings, that have been largely attended. I have attended many of those meetings myself, and was quite favorably impressed with the ability of this medium. She is a clairvoyant and clairaudent combined. To convey an understanding of these forms of mediumship, to those who have never had an opportunity to witness such a thing, I will describe briefly, the form of one of her meetings that I attended.

It was just a common meeting hall, with about two hundred and fifty people present. The meeting was in the evening. The medium, a large, portly woman, about fifty years of age, of light complexion.

This medium has been before the public for many years, and is very well known. Her meetings were always well patronized, for which a charge of fifteen cents was made at the door, to defray general expenses. This charge seemed reasonable to me, for the cost of the rent of the hall was no doubt, considerable. So far as I know, this medium bears an honorable record.

I attended several of her meetings, at various times, covering a period of three or four years. I never became personally acquainted with her, nor did I ever seek an introduction, nor have I ever spoken to her. My whole investigation of this subject, has been in a private way, and at no time, have I ever been associated, as an assistant, or in any business capacity, with any mediums.

This medium, from her long experience as a public character, was quite commanding in appearance. She conducted the proceedings of the meetings herself. Her daughter assisted, taking admission at the door.

On calling the meeting to order, it was her custom to explain in a general way, the object of the gathering, and tell of the main points, connected with her work.

She would relate incidents of her past experience, or anything that seemed applicable, to the introduction of her subject. She was a fluent speaker, a bright, intelligent woman, who very soon, would gain the attention of her

audience, and hold it throughout the entire meeting, with comparative ease.

Her position seemed quite natural to her, and she filled it in such an able way, that almost anyone, even those who did not believe in what she may have had to say, would listen attentively to her.

She explained in a general way, the object of the meeting, in order that strangers, coming to hear her, would easily comprehend results, as they afterward developed. This medium's special work, was that of a test medium.

She had the power of describing to numbers of people of her audience, their past relatives and friends, giving names, ages and incidents, that would recall to the party to whom she spoke, a recognition of the spiritual person, whom she was describing.

The general course she followed, without selecting any particular one, which I am unable to do, as I am writing entirely from memory; those meetings I am describing having occurred about twelve years ago.

Standing upon the platform, she would proceed, for example, like this; after the meeting was called to order. I see, standing beside a lady, sitting just off this center aisle, to the right, about the middle of the room, pointing to the person wanted, and furnishing further direction, until the party wanted, was fully identified, and answered to her questions. I see standing beside you, a stout, nice looking woman, about sixty years old, she gives me the name Mary, and says she is your mother. Beside her stands your brother Joseph, who says he was eighteen years old, when he passed out of this life. His trouble was with his lungs, for I see him coughing very hard. A cousin Helen stands beside him, I see her name in gold letters, just above her head, she was your mother's sister's child. A young woman, about twenty. Now do you recognize this description. The medium would go into much greater, and more minute detail, if necessary, until the spiritual people described, would be recognized by the party whom they came to.

In describing to the different people, of the manifesting of their people, in the various ways, in which they

came, the medium talked quite fast, and to the point, just as though she could actually see the ones she described, or hear the messages, from the spiritual people, to those of their relatives, or friends in the hall.

There was apparently, no set way, that they made themselves known; and it was often, by recalling verbally, some incident or incidents, that happened in their mutual earth life. In making those descriptions, the medium went into such minute detail, that it was rarely she failed, in gaining the recognition, of those whom she described.

The whole meeting, lasting about one and one-half hours, was full of interest, and many hundreds of people, in Chicago today, can recall the work of this medium.

I never heard anything approaching fraud, connected with her name. Considering her prominence, it seems impossible to me, that she would have been permitted by the police to conduct her meetings in the open way she did, if she practiced fraud, or it was known she was deceiving the people, who attended her meetings.

There was, and is now, a law in Chicago, prohibiting the obtaining of money by false pretenses, and making a breach of those laws, punishable by heavy fine and I believe imprisonment.

Under this code, such a party as this medium, and the ones of whom I am writing; conducting fraudulent business, would undoubtedly have been suppressed. I never heard of the police, interfering with her, though I believe, they often attended her meetings, as they were open for everybody.

It was quite interesting, for anyone to visit at those meetings, for she seemed to be so able, and unerring in her work.

THE CONVENTION IN HANDEL HALL AND MEETINGS AT MASONIC TEMPLE

DURING the time that I was investigating, I attended an open meeting, I think it was a national convention of spiritualists, held in Handel Hall, Chicago. The hall was in Washington Street, opposite Marshall Field's retail store. It was quite a large, theatre like hall, seating probably six hundred people.

I believe the convention extended over one or more days. I attended in the evening, and met there, the two mediums I had known so well, Mrs. Brown and her daughter. They were there just as I was, for the notice of the meeting had appeared in the daily papers. I sat beside my two friends, near the rear of the hall.

The proceedings throughout were quite interesting, but were only of a business character. There were mediums present, from all over the country. I do not now recall that I met any of them, nor do I remember any special names of the mediums who were there.

One incident, of the meeting that evening, comes back to me now, and as it was a national gathering of those people, held under official auspices, it is presumed the proceedings there were of an official nature, and thereby quite reliable.

During the evening, the name of one of the ladies present, was announced to deliver a speech. I believe she was announced as the national secretary, or some other official of the convention; or we were told she held such an office.

When she stood up at the president's stand to speak, she appeared like a woman under thirty years of age; tall, rather slender but well formed. When she stepped forward to begin her speech, she spoke in ordinary clear voice. We could hear what she said, sitting where we were, at the rear of the hall. She spoke for only a short time, in her own pitch of voice.

Suddenly her voice changed to a deep masculine tone, and her whole attitude and speech, assumed the character, and rather profuse and forceful gestures of a man, or rather, of an orator, who spoke in loud and strong voice. Standing at the speaker's stand, and emphasizing with her clinched fist, pounding with great force on the stand in front of her, she delivered an impassioned address.

The mediums who were sitting beside me remarked; that she was speaking under control, and she certainly seemed to be. She spoke thus, for probably half an hour, upon the general subjects before the convention. It seemed to me quite remarkable, and I record it here, simply as an illustration of what happened, at what I believe was an official national meeting, of spiritual people.

To all appearance, the meeting was nicely and orderly conducted, and the people present, of a very respectable and intelligent order. It is my belief, the speech was entirely inspirational, and that one of this lady's guides, was speaking through her; using her vocal organs, to express his own views. This seems to be quite possible.

Another medium, a rather elderly lady, slight of build, rather delicate, and in appearance, about sixty years of age. She used to hold Sunday meetings in the Masonic Temple, Chicago. I attended three or four of those meetings.

It was said she spoke from inspiration, when she addressed the meetings. I cannot say that this claim was true, but she seemed to use very refined and beautiful language in her discourses. I liked to hear her as I did, at several of her meetings. She spoke in her own tone of voice, and to outward appearance, did not indicate any control. This might all be, for as I had seen other highly developed mediums, they did not show any sign, of being under control.

This peculiarity of control, is quite apparent with some mediums; but of all of them, of whom I have thus far included in this work, none of them showed signs of being under control.

One exception to this was apparently true. It was one of those great trumpet mediums, of whom I have

first spoken, Miss Brown. She was herself, a fairly good performer upon the piano, and had a very good, ordinary voice for singing.

I have seen her sit down to the piano, before the beginning of our circle, and while playing some of her own familiar music, she would be taken under control by some musical master in spirit life. Her manner of playing, would change as if by magic; from the ordinary style of her own playing. Her hands would begin to execute very difficult music. Smooth expressive runs, the whole length of the keyboard and all over the keyboard, were made, interspersed with difficult passages in music, which, she told us, she had never seen or studied.

To appearance, as I viewed those periods of such control, they seemed really so to me, for her work, while under control, was so much greater than she ever played in her own way; besides, there appeared a different individuality in the music; that convinced me, she was incapable of.

A like condition, took place occasionally, when she would sing alone. Her voice would change entirely, and assume a higher, and stronger tone. It took on such a leading and finished style, that it was quite perceptible to all present. She never seemed to make any particular note, of those gifts, and it was only upon rare occasions, she was taken thus, under control.

In the years I attended there, I witnessed such control several times, and it is my belief, they were just as they appeared to be, for I never detected, one thing, about this medium, that I could ever say was questionable, or have I ever heard anyone, of the hundreds of people who had come in contact with her, and with her mother, ever say; that they believed they were not genuine, or that they in any way, were deceptive.

If they ever were so, it seems now to me, that it would have been wholly impossible for them, on their part, to deceive so many people, in so complicated a performance. It seems to me now, as I look back upon those performances, as we witnessed them, that human ingenuity, would have been totally unequal to the task.

EXPERIENCES WITH ANOTHER TRUMPET MEDIUM—MRS. JONES

ABOUT the year 1907, Mrs. Brown and her daughter moved to California. This left me without further opportunity, of attending their meetings.

It so happened, that I knew another lady, who was a trumpet medium. I had been acquainted with her for several years; but at that time, she had been giving public seances only a few years, probably three or four. I did not know so much about her work then, but afterward, I came to know that she was a very good medium. My long acquaintance, of fully twenty years with her, has led me to believe; she is in every way, honest in her work.

At various times, I have visited the circles given by her, and have been very favorably impressed, with her general work. The trumpet communications were very clear, distinct, and of a high order, so far as I have attended there. I also have had a few private sittings or readings, at her home, and in company with my brother, have sat at private readings two or three times.

At most of the meetings, which I have attended with this medium, our old trumpet guide has visited me, coming in his own personality and voice, just as he used to.

When he first came, I was much astonished, and could scarcely believe; that he could come through another medium, and fully retain his own voice, and general manner of expression. I knew his voice instantly, when he spoke in the trumpet, in these words: Well, well, well—well, well, well. He evidently wanted to be recognized by me. I spoke right up and said: That voice sounds like our old trumpet guide. It was probably a couple years, after his mediums had moved to the west. He spoke again, and acknowledged his name, and said that he had come to see me. I replied, that I felt highly honored indeed, to have him come through a strange

medium, to greet me. He said it was a great pleasure for him. We spoke together, for probably seven or eight minutes. He also spoke to the medium, Mrs. Jones, whom he knew, for she had attended at the circles, given by Mrs. Brown, quite often.

I heard afterward, that he visited others of his old friends, who had been regular visitors at the Brown meetings, after his own mediums had moved, and those people attended at the circles given by Mrs. Jones.

My own people also, spoke to me, almost as usual, though it seemed to me they were not just the same. The difference in the medium, I presume, would make some difference in their manifesting.

The new guides they would meet, would also have an effect probably, to somewhat change their voices and manner. I asked our old trumpet guide at one of my private sittings, in which he came to speak to me, if he had come from California that day, just to speak to me, and he said that he did. I said, that is a long way for you to come, just to greet an old friend. He replied: It was not much trouble for him, and that he was always glad to come to tell me, that he still had an interest in me, and was glad of the opportunity afforded.

I thanked him for the honor, and inquired about his mediums, who he told me were both well and happy as were the other members of the family. I requested he would bring with him, my kindest regards to all the Brown family, which he said he would do.

I certainly did feel honored, to have this beautiful spirit visit me. He was just like his old self, so kindly and warm in his way. He always spoke in such beautiful language.

My personal friendship, had also been quite sincere for Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and also for their daughter. They all seemed, such nice people.

While so far as I know, Mrs. Jones is a splendid medium, somehow, I did not go very often to her meetings. At this writing, it has been probably three years, since I have last attended any spiritual seances. I still take much interest in them, and would gladly attend such meetings, if it were possible for me to do so.

NATURE

IN the lectures given by our guides, it was said: "We must fulfill our mission in life. If we fail to accomplish this obligation, while here on earth; we must do so afterward, in our celestial state."

Our destiny is that of perfection, in spiritual life. Just so far as we fail while here, to measure up to this standard that it is possible for us to attain; we must labor for and adjust, after passing on. It all must be made correct, before we can proceed further.

Habits acquired while here, that are not in harmony with this law, are retarding factors to our progress; for they must all be lived out of our life. The spirit cannot progress, until it is purified of such influence.

Our future state in its sequence, is that of perfection; equal to that of our Savior, of whom we are a part; all the great possibilities of eternal life and its requirements, lie before us, in the centuries to come. We are heirs to it all, without limit; but it will come to us, only through our own merit and worthiness.

Suicide, we were told, is no escape from worldly cares. It is self murder; for which we are plunged into the dark sphere, where the murderer goes, and we are obliged to work up from this state.

We were told: "Our earth record, is an open book in spiritual law. Nothing can be hidden in it," not even from ourselves. We will know it all when we pass over to the other side of the river. We will read it ourselves, and will be our own accusers; we will need no court to tell us of it, and no jury to pass upon our merits or demerits. It is a fixed law; which no bribery or influence can change. All of our work while here, which is not in conformity with that law, must be made by us, and by us alone; to fit its requirements.

This is not in the way of punishment; for it does not seem to be intended that way. It is to fit us properly,

and the only way; for the great future life. We will all be glad and thankful, when we reach the final goal, and say: We would not have it otherwise.

Nature, in all its varied forms; is perfect, in its true sense. The closer we examine into it, the more satisfied we become of this truth.

Our earth travels at the inconceivable speed, of about eighteen miles per second (or many times faster than any cannon ball, fired from the most powerful guns), in its annual course around the sun; or one million five hundred fifty-five thousand miles in twenty-four hours. It has another movement of eighteen miles per minute, in its diurnal course. In this great complicated movement, it completes its circuit around the sun; a pathway of nearly six hundred millions of miles; at almost the same second of time, every year.

Our whole planetary systems; that swing like great pendulums around the sun, at enormous distances; are just as punctual, in the performance of their courses. Neptune, who is two billion seven hundred eighty-nine millions of miles, distant from its sun; and requires, over one hundred sixty-four years, to make one single revolution around the sun; is just as punctual in regard to time, in making that great course. Is not this perfection?

These are comparatively small statements, regarding our heavenly bodies. Just one other statement, with regard to the larger heavenly bodies; the fixed stars.

It is agreed by our learned astronomers, that they are so distant from us, that were their light to be extinguished; the fact would not become known here on earth, for nearly a century, and even more.

Light is estimated to travel 186,000 miles per second. Even at this inconceivable speed, it would be nearly a century; coming from the nearest fixed star, over nineteen trillions of miles away. Is not this perfection?

Coming down to earth life, we still find perfection, in every part of nature. Take the smallest plant or flower, that comes from the tiniest seed; are they not reproduced perfectly, through their natural course. And so it is, throughout all vegetable life.

This same law obtains, in all physical life; in every department. Is it not also true, of the varied mineral products, found in our earth? Is it not reasonable to assume, that a like, and perhaps greater variety and condition, exists in other of our planets, as well as of our earth?

Wherever any man, has ever made a profound study of any natural thing, he must have admitted that he had never arrived at a full understanding of it; but in reality, had made only a slight beginning. Does not this also show perfection in its endless detail? Evidence on every side of us, and from every source, pertaining to natural things; proclaims the one sentiment—perfection.

If this law exists unfailingly, in all things of nature; must it not also apply to us? It seems quite reasonable; for we are, a part of nature.

Along these lines, there comes a thought to me; life seems to have its origin in spirit, life itself seems to be spirit; here on earth, as well as in eternal future. This applies to man? Does it not also, apply to all other physical animals, reptiles, birds, insects—everything, that has life, and independent self motion? Is not the motive power, of all physical life, spirit? If it is so, is it not reasonable to presume, that it is alike, indestructible with our own? That it all has a future eternal life; in its own kind and form? This seems to me quite likely; and probably true.

If the real individual man, as we are here on earth, is the spiritual man; operating the physical machine or body, during the life of that body; and after the termination or death of that physical body, the individual simply leaves the body as it would a tenement home, to take up its residence in another form of existence; may not this same law likewise, apply to the different physical forms of life upon the whole earth? Does not this theory seem reasonable?

It is my opinion, that after we leave this life, and separate ourselves from our physical bodies, we probably receive another spiritual body; but I am more inclined to think, that the spirit has its own spiritual body complete, as it lives in our physical body; that in our new

spiritual form, we are about the same in appearance, that we are in physical life—a duplicate of what we are here. The new spiritual man, is a much greater man; and is freed from what we would call, physical restraint. While we in spiritual appearance, may be very like we are in physical form; and this I am inclined to believe is true of us, after we pass over the great divide, it seems that from this period, we grow in strength and power.

We were told by the guides, that “we learn to use the spiritual forces, as a part of our future education.” It seems that the acquirement of this great knowledge, is what gives power to the spiritual being. It enables him to do things, which, without it he cannot do.

GOOD AND BAD SPIRITUAL PEOPLE

STRANGE as it may seem to be, it appears nevertheless true; that there are good and bad people in spiritual life. The good people we can form a comparatively easy estimate of, but of the other class, I think it well to write about, and explain of them as best I can.

It seems, that when our physical life terminates here, we leave our bodies; and in due time, are ushered into a new form, or spiritual life.

We were told by the guides, that at this transition, the individual is hardly conscious, of the change that takes place; so much is he or she like themselves, when they regain their senses. They really see no difference in themselves; everything about them seems as it did before; practically speaking.

The new arrival in celestial life, finds conditions there, very similar to what he had been accustomed to in his earth life, and awakes out of a kind of sleep, to find himself in the company and care, of kind and sympathetic people. Those people, and he himself, are quite real to him. He is really not conscious, that he is in another life; so natural does it all appear to him.

It seems, that we take up our celestial life, just where we leave off this life. It must be remembered; that our life on earth, is spiritual life; for it is our own spiritual being, that lives here in our physical body, and that spiritual being, is our own selves, just as we are here; doing things, saying things and planning things.

Just so far as we travel on our journey upon earth, from that point, we begin our celestial life; and begin there, just as we were upon leaving this earth; only under new conditions of celestial arrangement; to which we gradually become accustomed, the same as we would to like things on earth.

Now upon this principle, it would appear to be: Whatever state and condition of advancement we have made in the natural journey of our life, a new adjustment must be made. The spheres in celestial life provide for this.

We go naturally, to the place where we belong. It is impossible that we go anywhere else. Nature and her perfect laws, dictate all this.

We were told by the guides, that the changes from our earth life, to those of the conditions of spiritual life were gradual; and in some cases rather long deferred; that those changes are dependent upon our own desire and choice; that we can live in celestial life as we choose, and that advancement is not compulsory. According to this law, people who live in the lower spheres in many cases, prefer to remain there; and make no effort to improve their spiritual condition; which is a requisite to their further advancement.

A parallel to this is found in earth life; when people are loath to change their circumstances, or condition in life, preferring to remain, just as they are. So it is apparently, in celestial life; and it is for this very purpose, the celestial missionaries or guides, as they are known; make it a duty, to descend from their higher and happier life, to mingle with those benighted and unfortunate people; to tell them of a better state of life; and to rouse them out of their lethargy, into a slight understanding, that a better state of life awaits them, if they will but make the necessary sacrifice and effort; to prepare themselves for it.

Habits long formed and lived up to, are hard to break, and those who have formed such habits do not wish to give them up. If true spiritual life, lies in a purified state of existence, is it not easy to understand; that no other condition will permit of association in purified life, but of a purified being? Nature steps in and says: It must be so.

Just so long, as the being in lower life, persists in living in his, or her old way; as it seems they have the right and opportunity to do, and in many cases, the set

determination to do ; so that being will remain where he is, just as he really does, while here on earth.

We must give up our bad habits, if we have any, and reform our ways of living ; so that they will not be a load, that keeps us down. The sooner this course of purification of ourselves takes place, the sooner we begin to move to the better life ; and the longer we cling, to a degrading course of life, so we will stay, in the lower sphere ; where that grade has its fitting place.

Any habit, that the human being is burdened with ; that unfits him for the higher spiritual spheres of life, must be lived out of his life, and banished from him ; for they do not belong in the higher life. The company of them, or the desire for them ; effectually bars the spiritual person, from his natural inheritance ; until all of his life, is made to square with nature's requirements.

Along these lines, this seems to be true ; That we here on earth are influenced, by the bad, as well as the good spiritual people. Like draws like ! As we live our lives here, just so, are our spiritual influences, drawn around us.

If we lead a good life here, good spiritual people, join our band, as guides to us. If, on the other hand, our life is led in lower channels, the guides who come to us, are from the lower spiritual life ; for it seems, they also, have the power, to come back to earth, their former home, and associate themselves with their old cronies, as they really do, enjoying themselves, and urging their mediums, whom they have attached themselves to, to perform their own desires.

The man on earth, who becomes addicted to the use of liquor or tobacco, has his spiritual associate, who enjoys the practice of those habits with him. This man, if he tries to give them up, finds it hard to do so, and sometimes impossible. This unfortunate inability, comes through the urgent desire of his spiritual associate, to continue in their practice.

The drunkard, who becomes ashamed of himself ; and promises his wife and family that he will try to reform, and really starts out to do so ; is made to return to his old habit ; through the desire of his evil spiritual associate.

We were told by our guides, at the time of the execution of the car barn bandits, in Chicago; Van Dine, Neidemyer and others; that they, in spirit life, would still have a vicious nature; and that they would, no doubt return to earth, and connect themselves with those of their own kind, for some time to come.

This seems strange to me, as no doubt it will to all who may read this; but we were actually told this by an intellectual guide; that such a thing is possible.

THE END.

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